Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you like the final design chosen for the CNMI commemorative quarter?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Surging Waters

A week's work of frantic sandbagging couldn't spare a bucolic college town from the surging Iowa River.

NATION...Page 15

China Flood

At least 57 people have died and eight are missing in flooding across a broad stretch of southern China.

ASIA...Page 16

Lotte World

Today was going to be an exciting day because we are finally heading off to our long-awaited field trip to Lotte World.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

SVS to construct new Kindergarten classrooms. **PAGE 2**

SHEFA's 'incoherent' response frustrates OPA. **PAGE 5**

Police sergeant, 2 men charged in car insurance scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office has charged a police sergeant and two men for alleged involvement in a car insurance scam.

The AGO charged Sgt. Hillary Tagabuel, Serafin Amog Esperancilla, and Yu Jai Feng "Lili" Cepeda with conspiracy to commit theft by deception. Esperancilla and Cepeda were also charged with theft by deception.

In yesterday's arraignment, Tagabuel, Esperancilla, and Cepeda

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Calvo surrenders to DPS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Businessman Patrick Mendiola Calvo surrendered yesterday to the police to face charges that he sexually abused a minor.

Calvo

Calvo, 43, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing. He was with his lawyer, G. Anthony Long.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo reduced his bail to $15,000, either in cash or property bond.

See CALVO on Page 4

SUMMER HAZARD JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Cousins Kayla Ayuyu Mettao, 15, and Dayna Rose Ayuyu Peña, 14, cross a collapsed part of the Sugar Dock structure to swim with their friends at the far end of the dock yesterday afternoon. The mid-section of the dock collapsed on July 12, 2007, yet until now nothing is being done to fix the structure, posing great danger to children, boaters, fishermen and other visitors in the area.

Taisakan urges delay in marine monument plan

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN and
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BUSINESS EDITOR/REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Valentin I. Taisakan is urging President Bush to delay for six years any progress on the Pew Charitable Trust's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the Commonwealth while local environmentalists are touting a newly released economic analysis of the plan.

In a June 6 letter to Bush shared with

See TAISAKAN on Page 4

Most cancer doctors avoid saying it's the end

CHICAGO (AP)—One look at Eileen Mulligan lying soberly on the exam table and Dr. John Marshall knew the time for the Big Talk had arrived.

He began gently. The chemotherapy is not helping. The cancer is advanced. There are no good options left to try. It would be good to look into hospice care.

"At first I was really shocked. But after, I thought it was a really good way of handling a situation like that," said Mulligan, who now is making a "bucket list"—things to do before she dies. Top priority: getting her busy sons to come for a weekend at her Washington, D.C., home.

Many people do not get such straight talk from doctors, who often think they are doing patients a favor by keeping hope alive.

New research shows they are wrong.

Only one-third of terminally ill cancer patients in a new, federally funded study said their doctors had discussed end-of-life care.

Surprisingly, patients who had these

See MOST on Page 4

Local

SVS to construct new Kindergarten classrooms

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The San Vicente Elementary School said it would not be able to open its Kindergarten classrooms for next school year unless they first address building safety concerns.

SVS principal Kinai Salas said that if the two kindergarten classrooms are not fixed in time for next school year, "I will not be able to open the Kindergarten for next school year, and I don't want to do that."

The two Kindergarten classrooms, which are located at the lower end of the SVS campus, are at least 16 years old. Salas said the classrooms are in such terrible shape that they pose a safety hazard to students.

An SVS employee, who gave the *Saipan Tribune* a tour of the classrooms, disclosed that one of classrooms is infested with termites and cockroaches.

"The teacher for this classroom distributes disposable cups to her students and tells them not to reuse them the next day because when they come back for classes, they see a lot of cockroaches just crawling everywhere," the employee said.

She added that it gets "really bad" during typhoons as the roofs and walls leak, leaving the smell of mold and mildew to permeate inside the classroom.

The classroom is also on the brink of losing its floor as the wood that it is made out of is no longer steady.

"We had our accreditation last March, and this is one of the recommendation that came from the accreditation team, that we need to reconstruct because it is clearly not safe for the kids," Salas said. "I'm looking for resources to address that recommendation."

Salas said that only one of the two Kindergarten classrooms will be demolished and reconstructed before the next school year.

"We cannot afford to build another classroom. I'm hoping that through appropriation from the Legislature, they're looking into funds in helping us build the other classroom. For the meantime I cannot wait for the appropriation, because they keep telling us that we have the funds and then later on we find out it's not there. This is our way of showing them that we're not going to settle and wait for the next two years. We want to take action because we're concerned for our students' safety " Salas said.

The classroom with the worst condition will be demolished, while the other one will undergo major renovations—safe enough for incoming Kindergartners.

Salas said the Legislature had confirmed $120,000 in July 2007 for the renovation of classrooms and infrastructure. However, after a meeting with the Department of Public Works, she said she found out the money was never forwarded to DPW.

"That's when it prompted me to look into other resources," Salas said.

SVS received its share of $20,800 from the $250,000 Tan Siu Lin donation to the Public School System. This, Salas said will help the school pay for the reconstruction of the Kindergarten classroom.

Salas disclosed that it would cost a little over $32,000 for the construction; the PTA will match the remaining funds of $12,000.

She said that when the school was told that it had received its share of the Tan Holdings donation, she reviewed the priorities of the school and determined that fixing the Kindergarten classrooms was the highest priority.

Salas said that SVS still needs to schedule a meeting with contractors along with PTA officers and figure out how to execute the contract.

It would take at least 52 days for the construction project.

WELCOME RALLY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio and other foreign workers of different nationalities display their placards during a rally at the American Memorial Park Tuesday last week to welcome visiting federal officials on the island.

Social Security rep sets Rota, Tinian visit

A Social Security Administration representative will be on Rota and Tinian this week to accept Social Security number applications, reports of any change regarding eligibility, and answer questions regarding programs administered by Social Security.

On Wednesday, June 18, the representative will be on Rota at the Mayor's Office conference room from 10:30am to 4:30pm. On Thursday, June 19, the representative will be on Tinian at the Community and Cultural Affairs Office located at the Tinian Gymnasium.

To apply for a Social Security number, original or certified documents must be presented—no photocopies are acceptable. First time U.S. citizen applicants must present a birth certificate, proof of identity and if under age 12, a parent must present his or her identity.

For a replacement card, a U.S. citizen must present his or her identity and proof of citizenship. All proof of identity must be valid. Non-U.S. citizen applicants must present an original valid passport and CNMI Entry Permit or U.S. Permanent Residency Card.

"Social Security makes quarterly visits to the islands therefore we urge all residents to make time to visit the representative regarding any Social Security matter," according to an SSA statement.

For more information, contact the office at 234-6203. ***(SSA)***

GUESTS OF HONOR JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial grace the Mt. Carmel School Class of 2008 Commencement Exercises at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

NAP monitoring retailers and recipients for fraud

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

With ongoing violations and fraudulent use of food stamp coupons, the Nutrition Assistance Program is conducting close monitoring of retailers by assessing commodities purchased through NAP vouchers and balancing redeemed food stamp coupons with the retailer's monthly inventory of commodities.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting Secretary Melvin LO Faisao said it is "agreeable" that an undisclosed number of food stamp recipients misuse their coupons and that there are retailers who engage in the illegal activity.

Faisao said that DCCA-NAP has "assigned units that conducts investigations, inspections, violation awareness with consequences and recoupment process through administrative hearings and or the small claim litigation process."

He added that cases are then reported to the Attorney General's Office as violators.

Faisao declined to disclose the number of food stamp violations in the CNMI but said that these are reported to the Attorney General's Office as violators and that "allege violators are under investigation and verification on the issue."

Defrauding the program leads to the loss of NAP benefits, fine, or imprisonment.

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF:	**FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0317**
ANNA DIAZ SABLAN	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
Petitioner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 23, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-DPH-070

SUBMISSION: JULY 9, 2008 • TIME: 12:00 NOON

"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW MODERNIZE DIGITAL IMAGING SYSTEMS, A NEW PACS SYSTEM AND VARIOUS OTHER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 25, 2008 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE COMMENWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONTINUING EDUCATION ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
Secretary of Health

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

CUC LOAD SHEDDING

Revised CUC load shedding schedule for June 16, 2008. Due to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's (Airport) inability to self generate, the previously promulgated June 13, 2008 CUC load-shedding schedule requires to be temporarily changed. The changes are in the Kiya 1, Kiya 4 and Feeder 3 timeslots. These temporary changes to the schedule will continue until CPA completes the necessary repairs.

8:00am-10:00am
Feeder 2: Second Partial
Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose Intersection

10:00am-12:00pm
Kiya 1: Second Partial
CPA/Airport, Portions of Koblerville, As Perdido

12:00pm-2:00pm
Kiya 4: Second Partial
Mount Carmel and south to Portions of Chalan Kanoa

2:00pm-4:00pm
Feeder 3: Third Partial
Gualo Rai Intersection south to Chalan Pale Arnold and Chalan Mosignor Guerrero Rd. intersection

4:00pm-6:00pm
Feeder 7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

6:00pm-8:00pm
Feeder 4: Second Partial
Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)

8:00pm-10:00pm
Kiya 2: Second Partial
Portions of Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

The first partial in each of the respective Feeder/Kiya could be included to the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. In addition, Water and Wastewater services will also be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages.

CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule. However, such schedule may be modified in future public notices. Please be informed that such schedule may be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. ***(CUC)***

Power 'rate credit' proposal hangs fire

Customers counting on the promised power "rate credit" will have to wait some more, as the Legislature and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. remain deadlocked on how to grant the relief.

The law, which allowed for the rate increase last month, provided some $9 million for CUC's fuel expenses. CUC did not factor the subsidy into its computation of the power rates.

Hocog

To correct this mistake, the Legislature and CUC agreed to grant the subsidy in the form of discounts, starting with the May 2008 billings. The initial proposal was to waive 30 to 50 percent of the billing for low-end customers, specifically those who use 1,000 kWh or less a month. CUC was to either add a line item for "fuel credit" in the billing, or deduct the discount from the amount due when the customer comes in to pay at CUC.

Customers in the 1,000-kWh block range are billed a total $1.5 million a month, under the new power rates.

Rep. Victor Hocog, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said CUC had yet to provide the formula for computing how much subsidy each customer should receive.

Hocog's latest proposal is expected to further complicate the issue. Instead of discounts, he now wants CUC to charge all of the customers nothing for fuel costs for the month of May.

"CUC did not pay anything for their fuel delivery last month. That money came from the general fund. So they [CUC] should not charge the people, including the business community, anything for fuel," he said.

But CUC executive director Antonio Muna has said that customers would only get the relief once the Department of Finance transferred money to CUC for that specific purpose. To date, all of the government funds paid to CUC are booked as payments for the central government's utility consumption. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Another stab at CUC privatization

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A new bill that would have a private firm run the Commonwealth's power system will be introduced in the House of Representatives today.

Rep. Victor Hocog, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, and Rep. Heinz Hofschneider will co-sponsor the measure, which would require a bid for the privatization of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Hofschneider

"We're going with a simple, straightforward bid process this time. Putting out requests for proposals has not worked for us in the past. There were too many protests, and we want to do away with that," Hocog said.

Several attempts have been made to privatize CUC's power division, but they failed for different reasons. The last privatization effort was canceled in July 2007. The Office of the Public Auditor, which ordered the cancellation, ruled that the procurement process was unfair and lack transparency. OPA also said the exorbitant fees charged by CUC discouraged competition.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the administration supports privatization "as a long-term solution to the power crisis," but will defer issuing an official position until the bill has been introduced.

Reyes said the administration will support a privatization bid if it is "open and transparent, and not geared toward one particular company."

According to Hocog, his bill would call for the creation of a task force to prepare a bid package. The task force will decide what type of arrangement CUC would enter into with a contractor. One of the options is to have the private company build and operate a power plant, and later transfer it to CUC. Another option is to hire an independent power producer. Yet another possible approach is to simply hire a private company to manage the power plants.

Hocog said a separate committee would be formed to evaluate the bids. Once the committee has made a choice, bidders will be given seven days to file a protest with the court. The court, in turn, will have 10 days to decide on the protest.

"This way, we can fast-tract the privatization process," Hocog said.

Norita suspends 2 Tinian cops, 1 firefighter for marijuana use

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio K. Norita suspended yesterday two Tinian police officers and one firefighter for marijuana use.

"The process requires me to serve them suspension and if they don't want to comply with the drug testing, then they will be terminated," said Norita during a press briefing yesterday.

The commissioner refused to release the names of the three Tinian DPS personnel, saying administrative action is still ongoing against them.

He disclosed that three weeks ago, DPS received information of drug use by some DPS personnel on Tinian.

"Based on that information I instructed our Internal Affairs to conduct an investigation. We directed four employees of DPS on Tinian for drug testing and the drug test came back positive for marijuana on three of the four," Norita said.

The commissioner said that when the drug analysis was confirmed by the laboratory, the three personnel were put on restricted duty.

He said the two police officers were stripped of their firearms, assigned to administrative support, and grounded.

"We processed their paperwork and as of today [Monday] Internal Affairs is serving them their 30-day suspension," Norita said.

Under the suspension order, the three will have to undergo drug counseling and complete the program before they can return to work.

"If they do not complete the drug counseling within the 30-day suspension period, they will be reverted to leave without pay," he said.

With respect to Saipan DPS, Norita said since he was appointed commissioner, he has initiated random drug testing but the results were negative.

About Rota DPS personnel, Norita said no drug testing has been done yet due to logistics or funding issue.

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Govendo orders continued detention of Atalig, Yana

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo continued yesterday the detention of lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig.

Govendo remanded Yana and Atalig back to the Department of Corrections after he found out that the two lawyers failed to return or do something to return the $1.3 million in attorneys' fees that they received in the Angel Malite estate probate.

Govendo suggested that Atalig mortgage his property and told Yana he may ask people whom he had helped before to conduct a fundraising for his release.

Atalig and Yana asserted they could not do anything to return the money considering that they are in prison.

Atalig also asked for three days per week as furlough so he could access his files in his law office and get exercise. Govendo denied the request.

On March 28, Govendo issued a contempt order against the two lawyers and ordered them to be imprisoned until they returned the $1.3 million.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing, Atalig said it is impossible to do things when a person is incarcerated.

"Your freedom is limited. The train keeps moving forward up to now," said Atalig.

MOST

From Page 1

talks were no more likely to become depressed than those who did not, the study found. They were less likely to spend their final days in hospitals, tethered to machines. They avoided costly, futile care. And their loved ones were more at peace after they died.

Convinced of such benefits and that patients have a right to know, the California Assembly just passed a bill to require that health care providers give complete answers to dying patients who ask about their options. The bill now goes to the state Senate.

Some doctors' groups are fighting the bill, saying it interferes with medical practice. But at an American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago earlier this month, where the federally funded study was presented, the society's president said she was upset at its finding that most doctors were not having honest talks.

"That is distressing if it's true. It says we have a lot of homework to do," said Dr. Nancy Davidson, a cancer specialist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Doctors mistakenly fear that frank conversations will harm patients, said Barbara Coombs Lee, president of the advocacy group Compassionate Choices.

"Boiled down, it's 'Talking about dying will kill you,'" she said. In reality, "people crave these conversations, because without a full and candid discussion of what they're up against and what their options are, they feel abandoned and forlorn, as though they have to face this alone. No one is willing to talk about it."

TAISAKAN

From Page 1

the *Saipan Tribune*, Taisakan said it is vital for local people to understand how the project will impact fisheries, ocean resources and tourism.

Taisakan asked the president to "give the people of the Northern Mariana Islands the same time period given to the people of the State of Hawaii to study the negative and positive effect of having to designate a permanent National Marine Monument within CNMI waters."

In addition, the mayor requested that federal authorities enter into talks on the issue with the local government under Article IX Section 902 of the Commonwealth's Covenant, a suggestion applauded by local Pew Trust coordinator Angelo Villagomez as a step forward.

It took six years for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument to be declared a national marine monument, Taisakan said. "And that was the time period given to the people of the State of Hawaii and the native Hawaiians to be educated about that project."

Pew's proposal has proven highly controversial among some local residents and lawmakers, in addition to seeing opposition from CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial.

Critics say the plan will bar the CNMI government from managing the waters at issue and lead to strict federal prohibitions on activities like fishing and mining. But backers of the idea say the monument will preserve a sensitive ecosystem, create jobs and draw millions of dollars to the Commonwealth.

The proposed site of the monument covers a 115,000 square mile area in the Commonwealth's northern islands.

Under the American Antiquities Act of 1909, Bush could establish the monument without consulting the people of the Commonwealth, Taisakan noted. Yet "it is only fair" for the president to give local people the same the six-year period to understand the full scope of the plan, he said.

"As I understand it, a referendum was not conducted to show whether the majority of the people of the State of Hawaii and/or the native Hawaiians supported the establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument. However, the fact of the matter is that the people of the State of Hawaii and the native Hawaiians were given six years to be educated and the opportunity to know and understand more about the project," Taisakan said.

Declaring the national monument without the consultation of the people of the Commonwealth would not be in the "spirit of the Covenant," he added.

Proponents of the plan, however, are hopeful that a just-released economic analysis of it will assuage many fears surrounding its impact. Excerpts of the Pew-funded analysis, conducted by University of Guam economist Dr. Thomas Iverson, suggested last week that the Commonwealth could see an estimated $333 million economic boost over the next several years should the president establish the monument.

The full report, provided by the organization on Monday, provides a more detailed picture of the monument's potential costs and benefits, and the methods the study employs to reach its conclusions.

Assuming a 2-percent increase in general tourism due to the monument, $1.67 million in federal funding and $4 million in research and "high-end" eco-tourism spending, the analysis estimates the monument could bring $10.87 million in direct spending to the Commonwealth each year. In addition, the monument could create roughly 378 jobs—fewer than a previously reported estimate—including 353 tourism jobs, the report says.

The analysis acknowledges that the monument would come with some six figure costs to the Commonwealth, mostly due to lost opportunities stemming from the preservation of the region's fishing assets and paying government staff to manage the monument.

However, one possible source of lost revenue not included in these estimates is the potential money to be gained in the future through undersea mining, a point the analysis acknowledges, noting that such mining practices are still in the early stages of development.

At the office of Gov. Benigno Fitial, spokesman Charles Ruyes stressed the point that the monument could force the Commonwealth to give up such opportunities. The Fitial administration remains "very skeptical" of the Pew foundation's plan. "You have to look at the costs in terms of lost opportunity," Ruyes said "We have to be very careful about what we're giving up."

Despite this, Pew's Villagomez notes the Commonwealth already lacks authority under federal law to mine the sea floor, and that any mining activity would require negotiation with federal authorities. Villagomez also took issue with the suggestion that federal authorities should wait six years to establish the monument.

"Six years is much too long," he said. "We're going to pick our delegate in Congress in a few months. The CNMI has made decisions much faster than six years."

Dr. Iverson will be on hand today at an 11:45 am Rotary Club meeting to be held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

CALVO

From Page 1

The court earlier imposed a $25,000 cash bail.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing on June 25 and the arraignment on July 14. The judge directed the Office of the Attorney General to file the charging information on or before June 19.

In her report, detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated that Calvo assaulted a 13-year-old girl on Wednesday, June 11. Afterwards, Calvo allegedly told the girl not to tell her mother what he did to her. The girl, however, did so and the incident was reported to police on Thursday.

Ozawa said that when she and a Child Protective Unit personnel talked with the girl, she was huddled close to her mother and had tears in her eyes.

At the hearing, chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch asked the court to keep the bail at $25,000 cash, as the court had previously imposed.

Calvo's lawyer, Long, described the amount as "excessive," saying that his client is not a flight risk.

Long cited that the Attorney General's Office filed two similar cases against his client in 2000, involving different alleged victims. On April 1, 2008, then associate judge Juan T. Lizama dismissed with finality one case at the recommendation of the AGO.

Saipan Tribune learned that it was then chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. who moved to dismiss that case, saying the AGO was not satisfied that there was sufficient evidence to prove criminal charges beyond a reasonable doubt. In his motion, Warfield noted that "the victim departed the CNMI and has no return date."

Long also pointed out that in November 2005, the jury acquitted Calvo in the second case.

He then mentioned that the businessman had just announced last week his intention to join the delegate race when the charges came out.

Some family members, relatives and friends of the girl's mother attended the hearing.

Long asked the court to release Calvo's vehicle that, according to the lawyer, was seized and impounded by the police over the weekend without a search warrant.

Govendo reduced the bail and imposed many conditions for the defendant's temporary liberty. He also ordered the release of the vehicle to the defendant.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued on Friday the arrest warrant for Calvo on charges of sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and disturbing the peace.

Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio Norita told the media that Calvo went to the AGO's Criminal Division in Susupe yesterday before surrendering to DPS at 7:30am.

"He was served with the arrest warrant, processed, booked and detained," Norita said.

The commissioner said that when the arrest warrant came out on Friday, they searched for Calvo, which led to the discovery of his vehicle in a farm located near the Saipan airport.

Norita said that on Saturday morning they activated the DPS Tactical Response Enforcement Team, which conducted a search of the entire cliff line and jungle area surrounding the airport and Obyan Beach. He said they failed to find Calvo, but the vehicle was impounded by DPS.

"We did searches on other farm areas where he is known to hang out. We talked to his family members, friends. We conducted surveillance on his family members and friends. We're happy that he surrendered himself so the process can move on," Norita said.

Calvo is the owner of Calvo's Nursery and Landscaping and the Island Farmers Market. He is the current president of the Saipan Rotary Club.

POLICE

From Page 1

pleaded not guilty.

Tagabuel, who was last assigned at the Department of Public Safety's commissioner's office, was not arrested; he was only summoned to appear in court.

Esperancilla was apprehended on May 26, while Cepeda was picked up on May 25. The case was then sealed.

According to information filed by chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch, on or between Oct. 29, 2007 through January 2008 the three conspired to create a false impression to Century Insurance that two cars were involved in a crash when in fact that claim was based on a false police report.

The scheme was done, Lynch said, so that Century Insurance, the insurer of the vehicles, would pay Y.J.C. Automobile Repair Shop, which Cepeda owns.

In a press briefing yesterday, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita said that a month ago, the supervisor of a patrol unit noticed several traffic crash reports that had the same officer reporting the "incidents."

"There was a concern because that officer was not doing any traffic or patrol assignments," Norita said.

He said the patrol supervisor brought the case to the attention of Traffic investigator Flor Estabillo who, in the process, brought up the matter with police operations commander Capt. Lawrence Camacho.

Norita said that Capt. Camacho informed him about the case so they went over the records and examined some of the data on traffic crash reports.

The commissioner said they immediately discovered 13 traffic crash reports that they felt were an issue.

Norita said he went to the Criminal Investigation Division and directed Estabillo and detective Patrick Maanao to conduct an internal/undercover investigation.

Norita said they were looking at 19 suspicious crash reports but ended up discovering a total of 41 that they believe had issues. He said the signatures of the supervisor were forged.

"Throughout our investigation, we found out that Sgt. Hillary Tagabuel basically initiated these traffic crash reports," he said.

During the course of the investigation, Maanao said they discovered that Tagabuel forged the traffic crash reports.

"We followed up with this with the insurance companies. We received several claims that had already been paid out by these insurance companies, knowing already that the traffic crash reports were fraudulent," Maanao said.

The detective said they decided to conduct follow-up investigation on the alleged operators in these alleged crashes.

"We learned that most of the operators were not even aware that they were involved in the traffic crashes," Maanao said.

Norita said that Tagabuel cooperated with the investigators.

Norita added that there could be some officers who unknowingly issued case numbers to Tagabuel.

"There is a parallel investigation going on right now for Internal Affairs to deal with those personnel," Norita said.

Maanao said under the scheme, the average payout by the insurance companies were anywhere between $8,000 to $25,000 per traffic crash report.

Maanao said Tagabuel was basically being paid for traffic crash reports and he was getting anywhere between $150 to $200 per report.

Police also searched Cepeda's auto shop where they seized five vehicles.

SHEFA's 'incoherent' response frustrates OPA

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has lashed at the administrators of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance for what OPA described as their incoherent response to allegations against the program.

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said he was disappointed and frustrated with SHEFA's "unresponsive, unintelligible and professionally unacceptable" response to the OPA review of the scholarship agency.

The SHEFA board of directors recently issued a 46-page reply to OPA's findings that the board had misused public funds through questionable hiring and improper payments to board members. In its response, the SHEFA board said the agency had consistently kept its budget in the black. But OPA's allegations were not addressed in specific terms.

OPA rejected SHEFA's response, saying it would not waste any more time and resources trying to interpret the incoherent text.

"The submission fails to address, with any substance or sincerity, the concerns raised in the OPA review. It instead embarks on a specious 46-page tirade, so poorly written and teeming with rhetorical non-sense, grammatical errors, and run-on sentences that gleaning any actual meaning from its text is difficult, if not impossible. Indeed, the submission raises further concerns if government resources were expended in its creation," Sablan said.

He cited randomly selected examples of incoherent writing found in SHEFA's response. One example, which was meant to address OPA's allegation about the SHEFA contractors' seemingly repetitive tasks, reads as follows:

"Moreover, what may seem at first blush to be unmeritorious engagement in seemingly duplicative and repetitive task orders would, upon closer scrutiny, prevail as a necessary antecedent in facilitating program growth, development, renewal and expansion in order that SHEFA becomes viable and a sustainable program, just as any new and emerging program would require, no matter the modality of delivery—whether performed or ascribed by negotiated deliverables by the governing board or by prescriptive and ministerial list of position description assigned a civil servant, the latter proposition ill advised given the uncertain beginning of and externally induced instability sown into the program, not to mention the external tinkering with SHEFA has been subjected to since 2006 to this day as in the extant case."

Sablan said SHEFA had an additional 15 days to submit a response that addresses the concerns raised in the OPA review and conforms to minimum standards of professional correspondence.

DRAWING CONTEST JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Winners and participants of the "Pistang Pinoy" drawing contest for kids gather for a group picture at the Garapan Central Park Sunday afternoon. The annual "Pistang Pinoy" was held in celebration of the 110th Philippine Independence Day.

Bill eyes ban on roadside solicitations

Soliciting donations along the roads and at intersections will banned if a bill passes into law.

A measure before the Legislature proposes to prohibit solicitations within 25 feet of the centerline of any public highway in the Commonwealth. The proponents of the bill said the ban is reasonable because it will ensure the safety of the solicitors and the motorists.

It is common for charitable, religious, educational and other groups to approach vehicles on the highway to ask for donations. The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which recommended passage of the bill, said that while the solicitation may be for a worthy cause, it puts the safety of the solicitors and the motorists at risk.

The committee also said the ban is not a violation of the First Amendment, which provides for the people's right to solicit contributions.

"The restriction imposed by House Bill 16-71 is tailored for the safety of the CNMI residents, without reference to the content of the regulated speech, and leaves open ample alternative channels for communication of the information. This restriction, therefore, does not violate a person's First Amendment rights," the committee said.

Rep. Joseph Camacho sponsored the bill. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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iCONNECT

Continental pullout catches CAB off-guard

By RIZA T. OLCHONDRA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—The sudden announcement by Continental Micronesia that it would no longer provide direct flights between Manila and Saipan has caught the Philippines' Civil Aeronautics Board off-guard.

CAB officials have expressed hope that a Filipino carrier can take up the slack to prevent the situation from getting worse.

The decision to stop flying between Saipan and Manila will affect thousands of Filipino workers in the Northern Marianas and hurt tourism to the islands, which are already suffering the effects of Japan Airlines' decision to end scheduled flights from Tokyo to Saipan.

Northern Marianas Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said Continental's decision was another major blow to the tourism-dependent islands.

"Granted, that is a business decision," CAB director Carmelo Arcilla said. "Although the announcement is surprising--they are supposed to inform us ahead of [time]. In any case, there are still indirect flights to and from Saipan."

According to CAB deputy director Porvenir Porciuncula, Continental Micronesia will maintain other routes, such as the Guam-to-Manila flight.

"But if [the airline] ever pulls out of that too, maybe a Filipino carrier ... would be encouraged to fly to the US territories to service the thousands of Filipinos based there," Porciuncula said.

Last week, Continental Micronesia Inc. announced that, on July 16, it would drop the only flights directly linking the US-administered Northern Mariana Islands to the Philippines because of soaring jet fuel costs.

The unit of US-based Continental Airlines will also suspend flights from Guam to Hong Kong in July and to Bali from October.

DPS TRAINING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Thirty-three Department of Public Safety police sergeants and officers from Saipan, Rota, Guam and American Samoa listen to Institute of Police Technology and Management instructor David Benn during the Advance Traffic Crash Investigation training at the Napu Room of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio yesterday.

DEQ to collect used oil on Saturday

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality will be holding a used oil collection event this Saturday at the Lower Base Transfer Station.

The one-day collection activity is organized by Tetra Tech, the consulting firm hired by Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp.

PMIC's Supplemental Environmental Project aims to improve used oil management in the Commonwealth, as part of a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

According to DEQ, "The free dropoff is only open to residential, not commercial, used oil generators. The total used oil disposal volume cannot exceed 10 gallons."

PMIC was busted by the EPA two years ago for committing waste violations. PMIC acknowledged the fault but asked EPA if they could instead offer to do supplemental projects.

According to Patrick Wooliever, Tetra Tech's sustainability consultant based in San Francisco, a portion of PMIC's penalty is to do something related to the fine they got.

"In PMIC's case, used oil waste management. Instead of writing a check to the U.S. Treasury, they can do a project on island that would benefit the community and the environment here on Saipan," Wooliever said.

The last used oil collection was held in January 2004. Approximately 3,000 gallons of used oil are stored in 55 drums and another 1,500 gallons of mixed fluids, including used oil, paint and other vehicle fluids are stored at the DPW transfer station.

The waste will be sent off island for recycling or energy recovery.

DEQ spokesperson Reina C. Camacho said, "Used motor oil, like other household hazardous waste, can harm the environment if it is not recycled or disposed of properly. If thrown in the trash or poured on the ground, used motor oil can seep into the groundwater we drink. If used motor oil is poured on the street, it will go down a storm drain and into the ocean."

Tips for disposing oil:

■ Keep your used motor oil by pouring it into a clean empty plastic container with a tight lid.

■ Make sure containers are leak proof. If they are not, place them in larger leak proof containers.

■ Do not mix used oil with any other product.

■ Keep all materials away from passengers during transport.

For more information about the used oil collection on June 21, contact Division of Environmental Quality at 664-8500.

SHEFA application opens for Fall semester

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program announced yesterday that its is now accepting new and renewal applications for financial assistance for the Fall 2008 semester/quarter.

Any bona fide resident of Saipan or the Northern Island who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident; has a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in high school or undergraduate in college; a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 in graduate or post-graduate school; has or will be registered for a minimum of 12 credit hours and enrolled in the Fall 2008 semester/quarter in any U.S. accredited college, university, or accredited technical institute issuing postsecondary degree(s), may file a new and completed application and all required supporting documents to the SHEFA Office in Garapan, Saipan on or before July 1, 2008.

The list of required supporting documents is automatically generated and downloaded upon electronic registration and submission of application using SHEFA's online filing technology.

Otherwise, the same list is accessible and downloadable via the SHEFA website by logging to Documents, Regulations and Law menu option.

All other previous applicants and/or SHEFA recipients who were denied SHEFA assistance may file an application and the required supporting materials to the SHEFA office in Garapan, Saipan on or before July 1, 2008 for the Fall 2008 term.

ALL new applicants and continuing recipients for the Fall 2008 must provide SHEFA with the most current e-mail address, Saipan postal address, and current mailing address for those presently studying abroad or plan to study outside of Saipan. Everyone is also required to provide a student identification number issued by the college of record.

For more detailed information on the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, log on to the SHEFA website at www.saipanshefa.com, or via e-mail address contact@saipanshefa.com, or call the office directly at telephone number (670) 233-5995. Inquiry may also be sent via SHEFA's facsimile at (670) 233-5996. ***(SHEFA)***

Applications sought for Sasakawa Pacific Journalism Fellowship

Nominations and applications are being sought from journalists working in the Pacific Islands for the 2008 Sasakawa Pacific Islands Journalism Fellowship, a joint project between the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund and *Pacific Magazine*.

The competitive fellowship will be awarded to three senior Pacific Island journalists to work in Japan for a week under the guidance of an experienced editor. The Sasakawa Pacific Islands Journalism Fellows are expected to produce a series of stories in Japan while working one-on-one with the editor.

This year's fellowship theme will be "Fisheries," and will examine current Japanese fisheries policies, as well as the country's fisheries culture and marketing system. Potential Fellows are asked to, as part of their applications; specify at least three stories around the theme of fisheries that they would like to report on in Japan.

The fellowship will accept nominations of and applications from photojournalists who work full-time for newspapers, magazines or online news services in the region. Photojournalists are also encouraged to apply for the fellowship. Photojournalism applicants must submit a portfolio of at least 10 but no more than 20 images in digital format, or printed on photo-quality paper, in addition to the other required materials. Completed applications and nominations must be at *Pacific Magazine*'s offices in Honolulu, Hawaii by July 11, 2008.

The fellowship trainer/mentor will be *Pacific Magazine* publisher Floyd K. Takeuchi, a journalist with more than 30 years experience, most of it in the region. He has worked on four newspapers; managed a radio news department; served as a radio and television anchor for Bloomberg News based in Tokyo, Japan; and managed a group of magazines. He will be assisted by Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund project coordinator Rieko Hayakawa, who has worked for many years on foundation programs in the Pacific Islands.

The fellowships will be awarded based on a competitive process. A selection committee will make the final selection. Fellows will be expected to travel to Japan in October 2008.

The fellowship will pay for a Fellow's airfare, and transit costs, cover hotel and transportation costs in Japan and provide a stipend. Fellows will be expected to pay for the cost of a visa or other documentation necessary to take part in the program.

Fellows will also be expected to have an Internet-capable laptop computer, and are strongly encouraged to bring a digital camera.

Last year's Fellows were Agnes Donato, senior reporter of the *Saipan Tribune*; Moffat Ghala Mamu, senior reporter of the *Solomon Star*; and, Suzanne Chutaro, senior reporter of the *Marshall Islands Journal*.

For more information on the fellowship and application materials, please send email to Floyd Takeuchi at floydt@pacificmagazine.net. ***(Pacific Magazine)***

Tan Holdings workplaces now smoke-free

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Members of the organizing committee led by Tan Holdings' senior vice president Eli Arago, fifth from left, pose with company president Jerry Tan, right, after the event.

Tan Holdings Corp. is taking the lead in promoting a healthier lifestyle with the Saturday launch of its "I Love My Smoke-Free Workplace," a company-wide initiative that seeks to encourage smokers to quit and prevent the hazards of secondhand smoke, a major cause of cancer.

Inspired by the memory of departed friend JP Pangelinan, Tan Holdings' president Jerry Tan said the "I Love My Smoke-Free Workplace" campaign is focused toward protecting the health of company employees and making sure that Tan Holdings promotes a work environment that is free from the risks of secondhand smoke.

"We are not forcing our employees who smoke to quit. Rather, we want to make sure that our employees who don't smoke are not subjected to the negative effects of smoking," he said. "This is about upholding everyone's right to a healthy, productive workplace."

Tan expressed hope that the "I Love My Smoke-Free Workplace" campaign will inspire other companies to implement similar measures and that visitors to the company's offices will enjoy the smoke-free environment.

Organized by Tan Holdings' senior vice president Eli Arago and HR manager Malou Ernest, the launching was held at the Azucena Room of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, attended by several prominent guests that included Saipan Chamber of Commerce officer Alex Sablan Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo, and FHP general manager Nora Sablan, as well as corporation executives and managers.

The launching also featured several presentations headlined by no less than Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez and Dr. Alan S. Markoff, who discussed the ill effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. Villagomez highlighted the effects of cigarette and secondhand smoke on a person's health, while Dr. Markoff focused on the oral impact of betel nut chewing and smoking.

Villagomez, in particular, said that a worrying trend is the rise in the number of people getting sick from secondhand smoke. "The rate is now almost level with that of smokers," he said.

He promoted the department's free Tobacco Cessation Program at the Community Guidance Center and its Tobacco Quitline (323-7848 or 323-5686) for those who want to quit smoking.

Among the ex-smokers who provided testimonials at the launching were Finance Secretary Eloy Inos and Saipan Grand Hotel GM Ed Cho.

To complement the campaign launch, Nat Angeles of the IT Department created a screensaver that will be installed in all company computers and a website (www.tanholdings.com/smokefree) that will feature initiative updates plus helpful tips on how to quit smoking.

The Community Guidance Center also set up a booth inside the Azucena Room, with Prevention Services Manager Reyna Saures, Tobacco Program Coordinator Edward DLC Camacho, and CGC Director Josephine Sablan providing several leaflets, literature and charts on the ill health effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Tan Holdings' president Jerry Tan speaks during the launching of "I Love My Smoke-Free Workplace."

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez discusses the ill effects of smoking and secondhand smoke.

Taking care of one's oral health

Tan Holdings Corp.'s launching of its "I Love My Smoke-Free Workplace" campaign on Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan featured one of the foremost dental experts on the islands, Dr. Alan S. Markoff, president of Toothworks Dental Clinic.

In his presentation, Dr. Markoff highlighted the oral impact of smoking and betel nut chewing and the high health cost that chewers and smokers pay. In slide after slide, Dr. Markoff showed the effects that chewing and smoking have on the mouth, the gums, and teeth, particularly the debilitating effects of oral cancer.

He said that Saipan has the highest rate of oral cancer in the world and is directly related to tobacco and/or betel nut chewing.

"Once oral cancer is diagnosed in a person, there is usually six to 96 months to live. There is no cure [and] it spreads rapidly," he said.

To help combat this scourge, Dr. Markoff said that Toothworks makes it a practice to refer smokers and chewers who visit his clinic to the Community Guidance Center, where they can obtain help on quitting the habit.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Dr. Alan S. Markoff, president of Toothworks Dental Clinic, talks about the oral impact of smoking and betel nut chewing.

Dr. Markoff obtained his dentistry degree from the New York University and a Physician's Executive MBA from the Auburn University. Before this, he earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the Duke University.

Dr. Markoff is licensed to practice dentistry not just in the CNMI but also in Texas (active), New York (inactive) and Connecticut (inactive). He is also on rotating dental residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas.

He has a fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry, a masters in the Academy of General Dentistry, a fellow in the American College of Dentists, and a fellow in the Academy of Dentistry International.

Dr. Markoff is a member of, among others, the Greater Houston Dental Society, Texas Dental Association, and American Dental Association.

KARIDAT, HOUSE OF MANHOBEN TEEN CENTER

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Now that school is out and summer is in, there's so much time to have FUN!

Starting July 07, 2007, the House of Manhoben's Summer Programs will kick into gear with all sorts of outdoor activities like sports, fun in the water and even ukulele lessons. So if you're looking for some fun this summer head down to the Karidat, House of Manhoben Teen Center now and register, from **June 18 to July 2, 2008, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 and 1:30p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

So what are you waiting for?

Register for the fun before summer is over.

ACTIVITY	AGES
■ Arts & Crafts	8-17

Get in the creative mood and learn how you can get crafty with things lying around at home. Be prepared to be inspired and motivated.

■ **Basketball** 10-17

Learn the basics and fundamentals of one of the most exciting sports today. Basic concepts of basketball will be shared, ability to have fun required.

■ **Bowling** 6-17

Get on a roll with the "Bowl". Learn the basics rules and techniques of bowling. 1st week.

■ **Canoeing** 10-16

Have fun and tone your muscles in the sun. This is the time to learn techniques of paddling.

■ **Ukulele** 7-16

Learn to play the Ukulele so you can start strumming your favorite tunes. Basics of the ukelele will be taught. Participants need to provide ukulele.

■ **Volleyball** 10-17

Fundamental aspects of the game will be taught. Girls will be challenge to "Bring it".

■ **Swimming** 8-16

What's summer without fun in the water. If you can't swim, now is the good time to learn and if you can swim, now can be a time to get more tips and have fun in the water.

■ **Bead Making** 7-16

Gear up to learn the steps of creating one of the most popular traditional works of art.

■ **Paper Mache** 8-16

See what you can get out of recycling magazines, books and newspaper. Allow your creativity do the talking!

Discovery Camp wraps up on Tinian

The first annual summer Discovery Camp for high school students has come to a close on Tinian, much to the disappointment of the 15 campers who took part in the action-packed week. As things wrapped up on Friday afternoon, camp coordinator Kim Vaillancourt from the Mariana Institute of Marine Science said that everything was a huge success as evidenced by the fact that "none of the kids wanted it to end."

According to Vaillancourt, the camp was designed to give students a greater appreciation and understanding for local history, culture and environmental issues.

"By providing a wide range of hands on activities under the guidance of dedicated community members we've been able to instill a sense of pride and excitement about the marine and terrestrial resources available to the students in their own back yard." she said.

Beautiful Chulu beach on the northwest side of Tinian provided the back drop for the camp and served as home base for the students as they explored the island participating in a wide range of activities. Programs included lessons on WWII history by famed historian Don Farrell, participation in a real live archeological dig and instruction on traditional crafts including palm weaving and canoe building. Ranging in age from 11 to 17, the students also took part in a water safety class and enjoyed days of snorkeling, swimming, rappelling, hiking and volleyball before gathering around the camp fire each night for stories by elders who reflected on times past. They even had the opportunity to map the stars.

Coordinated by Mike Tripp of Marianas Dive, a PADI Discover Scuba Diving program kicked off the week as students descended on the Tinian Dynasty Hotel pool for the opportunity to take their first breath underwater and to practice their skills before venturing out on a real dive in the marine protected area surrounding Tachonga beach the very next day. This, coupled with John Furey's interactive approach to the study of coral reefs and benthic organisms, proved to be the highlight of the camp for many of the students.

"Before trying it I was scared of what was down there, but it was really cool and exciting, it was awesome, I'm really glad I did it," said 15-year-old Raybrent Iglecias.

"At this time I would like to thank all the volunteers and dedicated people of Tinian for helping to make this happen. Without help from the local community, the camp and the lifelong lessons learned would never have been possible," said Vaillancourt.

She also said a special thanks must go out to Donald Mendiola, David Evangelista, Joe San Nicolas, Mitch Evangelista, Vicky and Skip Hall, and Mr. Shin from Tinian Fun Diving as well as the Tinian police, fire and public safety departments.

In addition, the Northern Marianas College and CRW provided equipment and science materials while the Pew Environmental Group and Marianas Dive provided partial funding.

"With all the fun and lessons learned the only consolation to the closing of the camp is that we plan on doing it again next year, this time with participation from all three islands and even international students," said Vaillancourt. ***(PR)***

PUBLIC HEARING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Taotao Tano president Greg Cruz and leaders of nonresident groups and business organizations gather inside the House Chamber for the public hearing on House Bill 16-86, "The Resident Foreign National Act of 2008," which proposes to establish a new five-year entry permit category within the Commonwealth immigration code at the House Chamber on Capital Hill Thursday.

Year-long internship for NMI students

If you are between the ages of 17-25, enrolled in college and are passionate about protecting the resources of Micronesia, you can be the next Micronesia Challenge champion.

In order to assist with the implementation of conservation strategies toward achieving the goals set by the Challenge, internship opportunities were initiated and the CNMI has two vacant MC Champion positions.

"The MC Champions will lead the design and implementation of a vibrant and comprehensive MC Outreach and Education Program that will bring the Micronesia Challenge message to every home in Micronesia and will gain the participation of key groups around the region," said Willy Kostka, director for Micronesia Conservation Trust, based in Phonpei, FSM.

The internship is for one year, and may be extended for an additional year. The MC Champions are expected to spend at least 10 hours a week conducting Micronesia Challenge education and awareness activities for the residents of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The Micronesia Challenge, launched in 2006, is a commitment by the Chief Executives of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to effectively conserve at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

Detailed information about the MC Champion duties, entrance requirements and deadlines can be accessed at www.deq.gov.mp. Interested applicants may also contact reina camacho at Division of Environmental Quality at 664-8500. ***(COCO)***

'Pacific should look toward China'

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—A senior Australian economist has challenged Fiji, and other Pacific Island countries, to work towards 'grabbing' a large portion of the tourist market in China as it is growing dramatically.

Andrew Hanlan of Westpac in Sydney said this was one country with strong rising income and an increasing trend of Chinese tourists travelling abroad, who could very well be potential tourists to Fiji and other countries in the region.

Hanlan said Chinese tourists to Australia had continuously increased over the years recording a market share of 15 per cent.

On the other hand, he said the number of Australians traveling abroad had increased sharply with expectations of the Aussie dollar to stay high over the next year or more.

"Certainly, even though I think Australian consumer spending will be a little more subdued, I will still expect to see a lot of Australians travelling abroad," Hanlan told close to 300 delegates at the 36th Fiji Institute of Accountants annual congress, held at the Shangri-La's Fijian Resort.

He said a lot of Australian tourists travelled largely to Fiji and Oceania countries in the region, and the market shares by these Pacific countries had been fairly stable.

"There are more Australians travelling abroad, so there are certainly opportunities. I think the challenge for Oceania and Fiji in the region is to try and capture a bigger share of that as well," Hanlan said.

He also highlighted the rising income in China.

"There is a massive change in the mix of people coming to Australia. And if we look at arrivals of our tourists to Australia from abroad, we see that China has risen. The number of arrivals has increased by 15 per cent last year," Hanlan said.

"So, arrivals overall, fairly sluggish in Australia, no big surprise but China, it's a massive growth market so you really need to be doing business with China not just in terms of exports, but they have got rising incomes," he explained.

"You can also see the market share of (Chinese) people coming into Australia as tourists has increased quite dramatically and that will continue to grow. Whereas Japan, you can actually see a downward movement.

"So the rising income in most developing economies is really changing the pace for growth," Hanlan said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 17, 2002

FDM's importance in war against terror stressed

Nine days after the resumption of bombing exercises on the Farallon de Mendinilla, the U.S. Navy briefed Commonwealth leaders anew on the strategic importance of the island and the role it plays in the U.S. Armed Forces' current war against terrorism. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said that Force Judge Advocate Edward Lynch, who acts as the attorney for the U.S. Navy, briefed him and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente last Friday on the current status of the bombing exercises and the steps being taken to ensure the continued use of the island for military exercises.

CPA revisits cleanup of jet fuel leak

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed Friday that remediation processes at the Saipan International Airport were halted due to continued refusal of Mobil Oil Marianas to shoulder half of the expenses incurred during the cleanup process. However, CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the ports authority is still studying measures to be taken in light of the recent inquiry made by the Division of Environmental Quality.

'Tighten law on sale of butane to minors'

The Department of Public Safety is proposing the absolute prohibition of the sale of butane gas canisters to minors, in a bid to address the widespread abuse of the lethal inhalant among the Commonwealth's youths. Police Commissioner Edward C. Camacho aired his concerns over the accessibility of butane gas products in the CNMI, which children can apparently obtain at retail stores for a cheap price of at least 55 cents per can.

June 17, 2003

Never say die for Rota

Island revives casino plan, this time through popular initiative. Community leaders on Rota are currently pushing for a popular initiative to allow casino establishments on the island, outgoing Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig said. The move is aimed at improving Rota's revenue collection. So far, Tinian has the lone casino in the Northern Marianas after its residents voted in favor to establish a gambling facility years back.

Brown nominated as AG

Pam Brown Gov. Juan N. Babauta has formally nominated his legal counsel, Pam Brown, to the post of Attorney General. Babauta announced Brown's nomination during a news briefing yesterday afternoon, and transmitted her appointment to the Senate at the same time.

MVA: Revival of China market in the works

Hopes are high that the Northern Marianas would soon revive the China market, with the government allotting half-a-million dollars for a marketing campaign and the possibility that China Southern Airlines could soon resume direct flights to Tinian by mid-July. Marianas Visitors Authority chair Dave Sablan yesterday said he recently asked the Babauta administration to review the situation in several parts of China, particularly Shanghai and Guangzhou, saying these areas have managed to control the spread of the dreaded severe acute respiratory syndrome.

June 17, 2004

AGO looks into water price hikes

The Attorney General's Office yesterday said it would look into the possibility that local water companies might have connived to raise their product's prices. CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell said an investigation is proper to establish whether or not anti-trust and consumer laws have been violated.

Continental, Cape Air to launch Guam-Rota flights

Continental Airlines announced yesterday the launching of its three-times daily flight between Guam and Rota beginning July 1 to better serve the region through its Continental Connection program. Continental Micronesia vice president for sales and marketing Walter Dias said that Continental Connection, operated by Cape Air, will offer convenient non-stop three times daily flight between Guam and Rota. "As a Continental Connection partner, Cape Air will operate the new service with 9-passenger Cessna 402 aircraft during the month of July. The airline intends to expand its service within the CNMI using larger ATR aircraft, as soon as completing necessary regulatory requirements," said Dias.

Island Snapshots

WELCOME TO SAIPAN!
A welcome party is held for Christopher and Cristina Esteves, together with a belated birthday party for their grandmother Josie Espinosa, last Sunday, June 8, at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRST BIRTHDAY
Happy first birthday to Joullia Agulto, who celebrated her special day at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. She is shown here with her loving family, mama Nelia, daddy Joey and sister Janella.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SAFE JOURNEY
Farewell to Sowmangeyong (Daniel) O. Kaipat of DanDan Village, who departed on Father's Day for Okinawa to report for duty. He is the son of Damiana and Diego Kaipat. Dear Lord: We ask that you bless our brother, son, nephew, unkle, and nino in this journey. We ask that you keep him safe in the cold, and provide him shelter over his head, and most of all provide him guidance with all the protections, and remem ber to bring him home peacefully and safely." We love and miss you. From Jocelyn and Kevin Kapileo and the rest of the Aldan's and Sofang clan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMEDY NIGHT
Guests laugh their lungs out with Guam's talented funny man Frank Rios during Club V's "Frank Rios Live and in Living Color" comedy show Friday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

REUNION MEETING
The Marianas High School Class of 1988 held its 20th class reunion meeting at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito on June 5, 2008. Classmates took the time out for a group photo.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY GIRL
Greetings from family and friends to our birthday girl, Erika Gabrielle Cunanan, who she celebrated her seventh birthday on Monday, June 9, at Shirleys Coffee Shop in Susupe.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOP MEETING
NMI Republican Party official candidate for the U.S. Congress Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio delivers his remarks during the party's general membership meeting at the Garapan Central Park Thursday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Marianas High School Class of 1988will be celebrating its 20th class reunion on June 27, 2008. From left to right, top, Gary Tudela, John Salas, and Rick Kaipat. Bottom, Felix Cepeda, Jack Cepeda, Ben Lizama, Dennis Villagomez and Fernando Romolar.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ACCIDENT
99 Cents Department Store staff help remove the items inside the van that flipped to its side along Beach Road, Garapan Tuesday afternoon. Five persons were hurt, including two women who were seriously injured, during the three-vehicle collision.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MCS PARENTS
Parents, relatives and friends of Mt. Carmel School Class of 2008 graduates gather in front of the altar to take souvenir photos during the MCS Commencement Exercises at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Equity for the disabled

Parents who want help saving for their children's college education enjoy generous tax breaks. Parents of disabled children, including children who have little or no hope of going to college, receive no such benefit to help defray the enormous extra costs their children may incur.

Several pieces of legislation have been introduced in Congress to create tax-free savings accounts for people with disabilities. In the Senate, one version is sponsored by Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and another by Sens. Robert Casey, D-Pa., and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. A version similar to the Casey-Hatch bill was introduced in the House last month by Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla.

Although they differ in some details, these measures would allow parents, other family members or those with disabilities themselves to put money into special accounts; the savings would grow tax free and would not be taxed when withdrawn to pay for qualified expenses. Such accounts are a worthy idea that would address the current inequity in the tax code. As important, they would enable families of people with disabilities to provide a financial cushion without endangering recipients' eligibility for Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income benefits.

These accounts also pose complicated questions, especially about their interaction with benefits eligibility. Currently, those programs impose strict asset limits. The account proposals provide that money deposited in the accounts not count against eligibility. The trick is to permit parents to provide some extra help for children with disabilities without encouraging wealthy people who could easily pay for health care and other needs to sock away large sums in these accounts while moving family members onto government benefits. What limits should be put on the size of the accounts or on total contributions? Should eligible expenses include housing? Should money left over in an account after a person's death be given to the government to reimburse its expenditures? These are critical but resolvable details to be worked out as this worthy idea moves forward.

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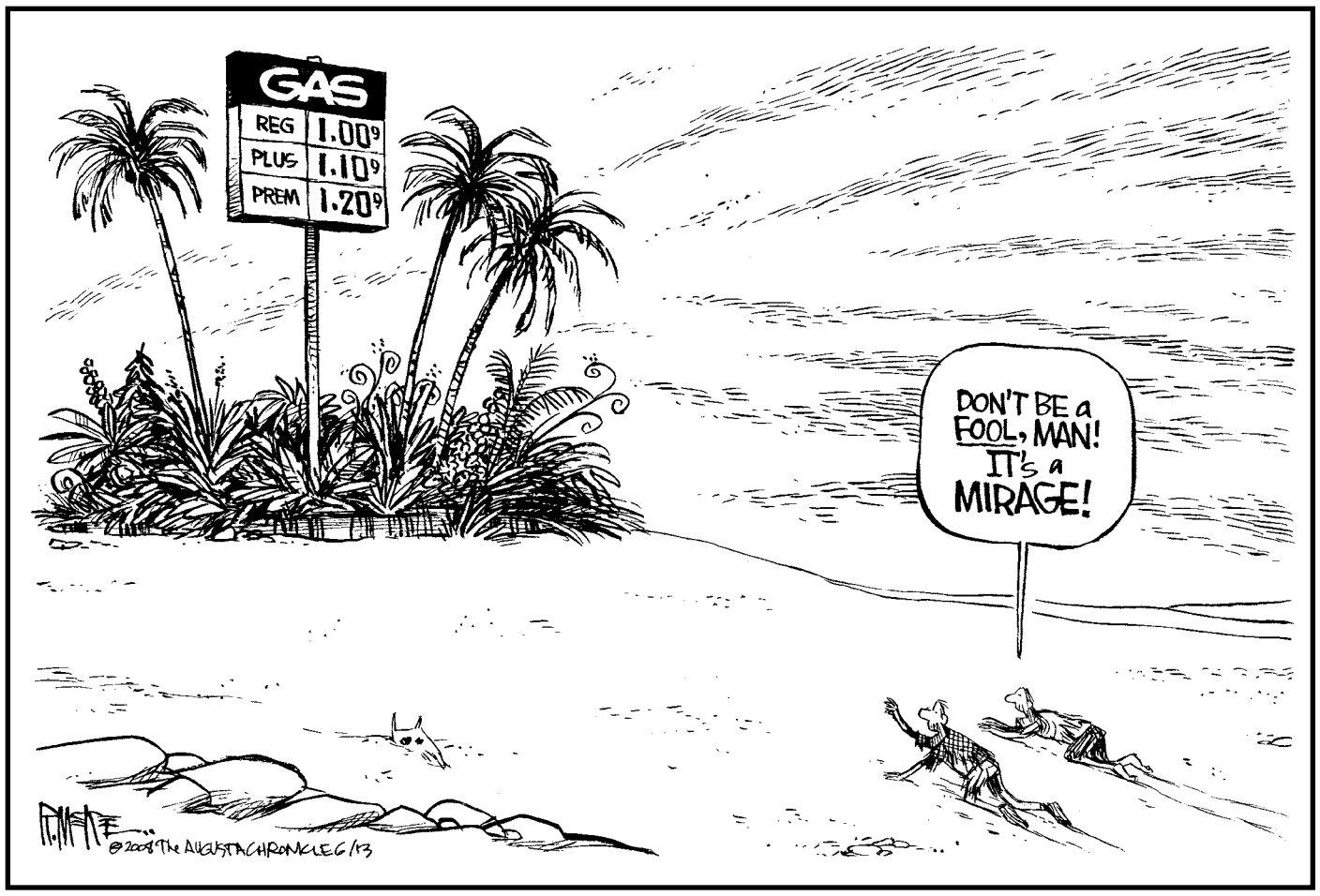

Fly me to Goat Island

East China Air?

Saipan to Manila direct flights have been cancelled by our friends at Continental. Citing a diminishing NCLEX clientele, they have decided to abandon a route that typically flies fully loaded. CPA and the Fitial Administration should actively seek a replacement airline. Perhaps Philippine Airlines or some other carrier would want to pick up the twice-weekly non-stops between capitals.

While the flights are infrequent, there remains a constant market for workers plying back and forth and the occasional tourist wishing to make the trip. It seems prudent to go out and actively solicit a replacement by letting several alternative airlines know that the route is available and offer them an attractive deal and a chance to make some money.

■■■

Weeding the racetrack

Patrick Calvo announced his candidacy for the position of delegate to the U.S. Congress last Tuesday. By Friday he was being accused of a new rehash of some old, long since dismissed charges from a decade ago. Call me cynical if you wish but the timing on these new charges seems a bit more than coincidental. Sounds like someone may have called in a favor to try and reduce that field of candidates by one more. A little smearing goes along way during a campaign.

Thursday evening also saw the Republican Party tap Pete A. as the horse to back in the coming race after two other candidates voluntarily stepped aside allowing him to run unopposed by any other sponsored Republican. It also saved the party the cost and aggravation of a primary election. Both candidates, Ray Yumul and Vince Torres, had meetings with Pete A. prior to backing down. I would have liked to be a fly on the wall during those meetings. Rep Yumul cited the possibility he will be called back to active military duty. If so, will he stay on the Legislative payroll again this time?

There are still plenty of ponies in the first-ever running of the CNMI Delegate Derby and plenty of time to get those bets down.

■■■

Smooth

It is nice to see Tinian getting some infrastructure improvements. The paving of Route 202, a two-lane road from Broadway down to the port, is finally underway after several delays. Many of the roads on Tinian are potholed and in need of repair. Problem is, at $2 million a mile, not many of them will be getting much attention. Yep, that is how much this project is costing. Divided island, limited access freeways built to interstate highway standards cost less to construct than this little two-lane side street.

With so many roads and sidewalks needing work, seems a shame to spend so much and get so little. I'm sure that road, less than a mile long, will be a real beauty. At that price it ought to be. For that kind of cash they could have repaved every road in San Jose. Every one in town, except the tire dealer, would probably like to see that happen. Maybe the Governor's CIP task force, given credit for getting the current project underway, will again hit Federal Highway Administration paydirt but spread it around to many smaller projects next time.

Hey, I've got a friend who lives out in the Marpo Valley who needs a high ground clearance HumVee and a tow truck just to get home—the road is so bad. Several of Tinian's tourist attractions have access via roads that might better be called an obstacle course than a highway. So there is lots to do and the long suffering folks over on Tinian deserve to get some of the federal loot buttering their bread. Just spread that butter and jam a little further next time, please.

■■■

Gambling Festival

This year the AGs office sort of took the Constitution seriously and banned some forms gambling at the Liberation Festival at Fishing Base. You can still play "Instant Massive Bingo" so I guess that must not be gambling. Let's see, in Blackjack you place your bet, you win or you lose money. But in Bingo, you place your bet and you win or lose money. See the difference?

At other venues for other causes, gambling is okay. Depends on what color your collar is or whether you are wearing a tie I guess. Being an AG is hard. So many definitions to choose from.

Last year the last minute rule change tricks played on the booth operators caused many of them not to return this year. Last year promises were made and rules involving sales of alcoholic beverages were outlined during several pre-festival meetings at the mayor's office Then on the day the Festival opened, they changed the rules drastically causing many booth operators to lose money during the event. Several considered suing. Wonder why there are fewer booth operators this year? A little grape just told you.

■■■

Nude Goats

Last week's column on nudity caused one reader to write me and suggest that nude tourism could be a big seller. It got me thinking about the fact that we need a new tourist draw in the worst way. Casino gambling, the fastest way to stimulate tourism, went down to a 5-3 defeat from the Puritan Purist vote back in '06. Maybe this nude suggestion, if properly hidden and isolated, would gain the approval of those folks. On the other hand, nothing in the Constitution bars baring ones buns so we wouldn't have to take this to the voters. All we need is a place and an investor.

We could designate a nude only beach site and have the unclad

See FLY on Next Page

Sour Grapes

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

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Our history, off-limits

By MICHAEL DOBBS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Giving Americans back their history may not rank with ending the war in Iraq or balancing the budget, but it should be high on the to-do list of the next president. Our declassification system has broken down. Historians are waiting an average of seven years for replies from presidential libraries to their Freedom of Information Act requests. The White House cannot locate millions of e-mail records created during the months immediately before and after the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The problem goes far beyond the Bush administration or its immediate predecessors. Tens of thousands of pages of previously declassified top-secret documents that I read and photographed two years ago at the Naval Historical Center in Washington, while researching a minute-by-minute narrative of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, were closed to researchers in March pending an indefinite security "review." The ostensible reason for pulling the records is the 1999 Kyl-Lott amendment that requires the rescreening of millions of documents for supposedly sensitive nuclear secrets. But it is difficult to explain why the Navy waited nearly a decade before acting.

Some of these records date to World War II and have been pored over, copied and written about extensively. Many of the withdrawn documents can be viewed online. In addition to defying common sense, the reclassification initiative consumes valuable taxpayer resources that would otherwise be devoted to declassifying records. I am confident that nothing I saw while examining the Navy's missile crisis records could be of use to terrorists, but much would be of great interest to historians.

The now-closed documents helped me describe a secret plan by Nikita Khrushchev to wipe out the Guantanamo Bay naval base with nuclear-armed cruise missiles in the event of a U.S. invasion of Cuba. By combining Navy intelligence reports and interviews with Soviet veterans, I traced the deployment of a Soviet nuclear weapons convoy to within 15 miles of the naval base at the peak of the crisis, the night of Oct. 26-27. The U.S. government was blissfully unaware of the significance of the convoy, which intelligence reports depict as a movement of 1,000 or so "Russ/Sino/Cuban troops" together with "unidentified artillery." (The "Sino" part was ridiculous, of course. This was back when the U.S. intelligence community was still skeptical of the rift between Moscow and Beijing.)

The plan to destroy Guantanamo was closely coordinated with Cuba's current leader, Raul Castro, who had been dispatched to Oriente province by his brother Fidel. Much of my reporting would have been impossible without the naval records that are now off-limits. According to the acting director of the historical center, Edward Marolda, the archives were closed on the instructions of the declassification manager at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Mary Anderson. Anderson told me through a spokesman that at least 5.4 million pages are affected by the review. "Reclassification manager" might be a better job description for Anderson.

Ironically, before the reclassification initiative, the Navy had a generally good record of opening its archives. The Air Force, by contrast, has yet to release a single document explaining the accidental overflight of the Soviet Union by an American U-2 spy plane on Oct. 27, 1962, the day that came to be known around the White House as "Black Saturday." An official Air Force history lists the mission by Capt. Charles Maultsby as "100 percent successful." Perhaps only a government record keeper benefiting from the cloak of secrecy could use such nonsense to describe an incident that caused Khrushchev to tell President John Kennedy that the violation of Soviet airspace could have triggered a nuclear war.

The classification of the Maultsby incident probably is maintained because the National Security Agency was intercepting the communications of Soviet air defenses as they sent up MiG fighters to down the errant U-2. But this detail has already been disclosed by retired Air Force generals in conversations with me and other researchers. And a determined researcher can often work around gaps in the records, rendering the secrecy pointless.

In the meantime, morale is plummeting at the National Archives. Many knowledgeable archivists have quit or retired over the past couple of years. Those who remain speak fondly about Richard Nixon, a champion of glasnost compared with the Bush administration. Under Nixon, researchers gained access to most World War II records, in accordance with the 30-year waiting period for the release of all but the most sensitive secret documents. If the Nixon standards applied today, practically all the records relating to the Cuban missile crisis would be released. Instead, roughly half of these records are still inaccessible to researchers. Our history is locked away — without any appreciable gains for the war on terrorism.

Dobbs writes the Fact Checker column for The Washington Post. *He is the author of* One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War.

Let's grant poor students more financial help

By TED MITCHELL and JONATHAN SCHORR
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Aisha Ford was a sociology major. But she was forced to take on a second course of study that doesn't show up on her college transcript. In addition to being a full-time student, she had to become a skilled fundraiser.

Aisha, who graduated in May from Ohio Wesleyan University, did what most academically talented, low-income students must do: cobble together grants and loans from a startling variety of sources to get through college.

Students from the richest quarter of American families are more than seven times as likely to graduate from college as are kids from the poorest quarter. Black and Hispanic students are one-half and one-third as likely, respectively, as their white counterparts to earn bachelor's degrees. Lack of financial aid contributes mightily to the problem.

We pride ourselves as a nation on the opportunity to climb the economic strata through education, but we've been offering less and less to poor kids with college aspirations. A 2006 Education Trust report notes that the maximum federal grant for low-income college students in 1975 covered 84 percent of a public university education; now, it covers a third.

And even as the cost of college continues to grow faster than financial aid, states and universities increasingly have shifted focus from helping the lowest-income students toward helping the middle class. So perhaps it should be no surprise to see the number of poor kids in college plummeting. In 1995, students whose families made less than $40,000 made up 38 percent of enrollment in public four-year colleges; by 2003, that number had dropped to 28 percent.

The federal government took a step in the right direction in May when the president signed a bill aimed at shoring up the student loan industry. The law ensured the continued availability of federal loans, increased the size of loans and lengthened the time families have to repay them. It is a welcome addition to the increase this year in the key federal grant for low-income college students: About 5.3 million students receive Pell grants, which are capped at $4,731 a year.

Aisha's story offers a clear view of the challenges that low-income students face. The first in her family to attend college, Aisha chose Ohio Wesleyan for the generosity of its scholarship offer, but she quickly learned that she still had a lot of fundraising to do. She took two work-study jobs, won two more scholarships and her high school kicked in several thousand dollars. Now, as she looks at her college debt, she wonders about her ability to attend graduate school in social work.

And Aisha is better off than some of her peers -- her loan is federally backed. Such loans are nearly always the best deal, but for a variety of reasons, low-income families often turn to private loans. With the economy in a tailspin, such families will face even worse interest rates. The problem will hit especially hard at lower-ranked colleges, where default rates are highest and where a disproportionate number of low-income kids go. And indeed, some of the biggest U.S. banks recently stopped lending to students at some community colleges.

Some forward-thinking high schools, such as Chicago's Noble Network -- which our philanthropy supports -- have developed remarkable support efforts, from raising "gap aid" to making financial-aid planning a class subject. Yet, in an economy that puts a premium on a college degree, we can't rely on high schools or kids to be fundraisers. We as a society must do more to make college accessible to low-income kids, not just through loans but through expansion of outright grants -- from business groups as well as academia and government.

"If you really want to improve access for low-income kids, you have to reduce the amount people have to borrow and increase grant aid," says Michael Dannenberg, who directs education policy at the New America Foundation.

Outright grants make a wider range of colleges more affordable. They reduce the debt load that low-income kids carry into adulthood and the financial fear factor that drives many poor families from college. And they help ensure opportunity for smart kids like Aisha, which is what our national promise is all about.

Mitchell is chief executive of NewSchools Venture Fund and president of the California Board of Education. Schorr is a partner at the fund.

FLY

From Page 10

from all over the globe come here to disrobe and get a bit closer to nature. Goat Island would be the perfect venue for this "back to basics" kind of eco-tourism. "Let the bees see your knees" could be the new Goat Island motto. Signs warning the tourists to "Bend over Carefully" and "Caution Goat Crossing" could be placed around the island to promote safe nudity. Sunscreen vendors would come flocking. The prospects for jocularity are endless.

■■■

Quote of the week: I believe I found the missing link between animal and civilized man. It is us.

—Konrad Lorenz, ethnologist, Nobel laureate (1903-1989)

Letter to the Editor

Beware the high cost of money

CNMI consumers are currently experiencing tremendous inflation. The price of gas is going up with record high oil prices in the international market. The garment-shipping subsidy has vanished with the collapse of our garment industry. Imported goods cost more because of the increased cost of transportation and fuel. Federal minimum wage hikes get passed on to consumers. With the exodus of labor and the diminishing population base, the CNMI is not benefiting from better economics of scale. Prices are rising and CNMI consumers tend to be very sensitive to rising costs. This is true when it comes to most goods and commodities, but there is one product that many local consumers tend to overlook: money.

When it comes to the price of gasoline at the pump, most local CNMI consumers tend to become very concerned. Most of us are very conscious of every increase at the pump, even if it's just 20 or 30 cents. But when a predatory lender offers to charge you thirty percent in annual interest for a loan, many CNMI consumers don't even think twice about signing a financially damaging loan contract. To add insult to injury, many CNMI consumers also allow themselves to be sold on expensive insurance products they may not need. They get ripped off on the loan and they get ripped off again on unnecessary and expensive insurance products on top of the loan. With the exception of a private mortgage loan, loan insurance is optional. Make sure you have adequate term life insurance and skip the expensive credit life insurance.

During this difficult period of inflation, I advise all CNMI consumers to be very careful about paying too much for money. Money is just another commodity and we should all be sensitive to the cost of money. Avoid borrowing money from a non-FDIC-insured bank. If you need a loan, go to the legitimate traditional banks first. If it takes a few days to get a loan from a bank, be patient. Waiting a few days is much better than getting a quick loan at an outrageous interest rate.

For personal loans, there is really no good reason to secure a loan at a rate of more than ten percent a year, with decent credit. A mortgage loan should fall somewhere between five and eight percent. An automobile loan could be as low as 3.5 percent. See the Federal Pentagon Credit Union website at www.penfed.org, which serves CNMI residents.

If you do not qualify for a loan at a bank, work hard to improve your credit profile so that you can eventually qualify for a reasonable loan at a bank. Do not rely on the predatory lenders.

It makes little sense to scream and holler about another increase in the price of gas and then turn right around and voluntarily sign a contract with a predatory lender for a thirty percent annual rate, bringing you deeper in the red.

Charles P. Reyes Jr.
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼80°

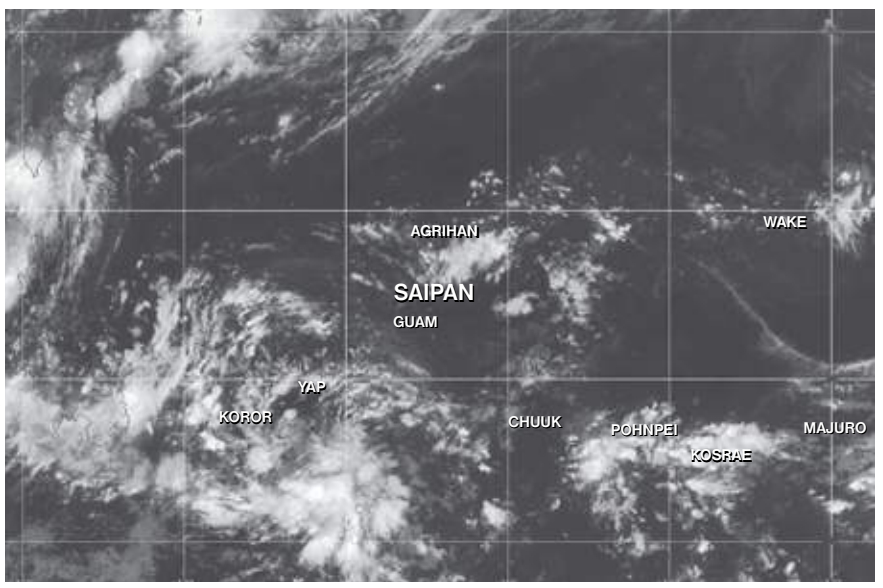
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲62	▼47
Beijing	Rain	▲78	▼67
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼75
London	Showers	▲70	▼53
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼62
Manila	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
New York	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼61
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼66
Paris	Showers	▲73	▼53
Pusan	Rain	▲72	▼71
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼63
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼46
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲83	▼63
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼64
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:15PM, MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a weak circulation near Koror to EQ140E. Numerous showers associated with the trough are located southeast of Koror and Yap south of 6N between 135E and 142E with scattered showers elsewhere between 1N and 8N from 130E to 135E.Trade-wind convergence associated with a tropical wave from EQ156E to 6N158E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in eastern Micronesia within 120 miles of a line from 5N154E to 6N166E. This area includes Pohnpei and Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence associated with a weak tropical wave near Tarawa is producing scattered showers between 2N and 5N from 172E to the date line. Interaction between an old shear line boundary north of Saipan and an upper-level low centered near 14N150E is triggering scattered showers near the Northern Marianas between 16N and 19N from 145E to 150E. A weak surface low east of Wake Island centered near 20N171E is triggering a few showers within 90 miles of the center. Further east. Upper level divergence is enhancing showers east of 174E between 19N and 22N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:51AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
5:27AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:12PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:34PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:40PM	4:10AM
Wednesday	6:32PM	4:59AM
Thursday	7:23PM	5:50AM
Friday	8:11PM	6:43AM
Saturday	8:55PM	7:37AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

An invitation to a CUC forum

Dear CNMI Community:

We would like to invite you all to join us tonight, Tuesday, June 17, 6pm, at the Multi-Purpose building in Susupe for a community forum on CUC.

The bottom line is, we are several years away from an alternative source of energy. Whether it be wind, waves, geothermal, solar, or nuclear power, the CNMI won't be harnessing alternative power to run our utilities anytime soon.

So what do we do in the meantime? What are some things our leaders must do to save more business from closing because of outrageous utilities costs? What can residents do to keep their power on?

We don't have definitive answers for these and other questions regarding our utilities. But we do have suggestions. We also have a short list of reasonable demands with potential consequences.

There are pessimists and critics out there who scoff at the notion of ordinary citizens coming together. Some have said all we will do is talk, and that nothing will be accomplished by this forum. For those who are frustrated, angry, and have lost faith in anything good coming our way, I want to tell you something that was told to me by a loving parent: "God only helps those who help themselves."

We can sit around and complain and accomplish nothing, or we can come together as ordinary citizens and make extraordinary things happen. As an ordinary citizen, I ask that you join us.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 483-7361 or e-mail me at edpropst@gmail.com.

Ed Propst
via e-mail

'Accentuate the positive'

In thinking about the Marianas Marine Monument/Marianas Sea Park, or whatever you want to call it, people might want to follow the advice of that old song that went: "Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative" (and I believe it continues: "don't mess with Mr. Inbetween"). Briefly put, some "positives," as I see them, are:

WORLDWIDE ATTENTION: From media, from scientists, from tourists;

"BRAGGING RIGHTS": For the CNMI's contribution to the Micronesian Challenge, for its role in protecting the marine environment, for hosting the 2nd largest marine preserve in the country (the world?);

INCREASED REVENUE: From jobs created directly, from jobs created indirectly for support services, from new related businesses; from increased visitors—tourists, scientists, media, etc.; from Federal facility support;

RESOURCE PROTECTION: Through terms of the monument agreement, through federal monitoring of Northern Island waters, through the stability of long-term commitment;

INCREASED POLICY PRESENCE: Through terms of the monument agreement; through a seat on the management board, through a voice/role in formulating regulations;

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE ACCESS: Through co-management with the federal government;

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: Through research/researcher presence; through greater edu/eco-tourism potential.

What's to lose?

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

SHEFA response to OPA review

Editor's Note: The following is Part 2 of a three-part series on the SHEFA program.

In response to an OPA "review", the governing board explained in specific detail how SHEFA has been operated since its inception in Fall 2004, touting the program a model in fiscal restraint evidenced by the absence in program cost overrun and operational deficit and government-financed extravagance.

The board takes pride in being the first and only municipal scholarship program on Saipan and the CNMI without the luxury of government-provided vehicle; government-paid fuel and lubrication expenses; use of government cellular phone or Blackberry; overtime and fringe-benefit expenses; travel and travel related expenses for off island; off island training expenses; and other workplace extravagance.

Dedicating a substantial amount of program revenue directly on bona fide Saipan residents, the governing board has invested 97 percent of the SHEFA funding on postsecondary scholarships, related higher education assistance and college enhancement activities. This is evidenced in the board having reviewed and processed over 3,000 recipients, totaling slightly over $8,000,000 in awards since the program took off in Fall 2004 to date. The board incurred an average cost of less than $250 per month in board compensation or an average of less than $50 per member in the first three fiscal years of SHEFA.

As of Fall 2007, over 100 SHEFA scholars have attained their college degrees. A review conducted recently by OPA raised issue with SHEFA's approach in outsourcing employment of civil servants. In response, the governing board holds the determinative decision whether its use of specialized expertise comports with SHEFA's enabling statute and pertinent provision of law governing civil service, in addition to public policy and practice on procurement of services and the exemption specifically granted to the Legislature and the mayors in applicable statute. The board explained how the Saipan municipal postsecondary program has evolved under a compressed implementation timetable, which required proven expertise in program operation, policy guidance and related program implementation activities, policy and program development, among other skills and program development and management experiences.

In addition, hiring employees as opposed to outsourcing deliverables would not fare under the circumstances, even assuming the hiring of permanent staff is allowable, and considering such an approach in the most favorable light. The uncertainty and unpredictability in program funding in the past just as it has continued to the present, including the precarious fluidity of the program, would make the most elementary cost-benefit analysis in hiring fiscally imprudent. This point is best illustrated with contrasting differences in cost using an outsource model utilized by SHEFA compared to a so-called fiscal-prudent model between two post secondary programs, one catering to interisland students while the other stretching pittance resources in affording optimal services to students from the Municipality of Saipan.

Given the climate of uncertainty and unpredictability, it is most imprudent to hire fulltime staff during the formative period of program development. Besides, operation funds are inadequate to attract or recruit individuals best qualified to operate a new and evolving program. And even if the governing board had opted for the approach suggested, the board would have been prevented from the outset and deemed out of compliance with and barred by applicable statute governing fulltime employment.

With the highly compressed implementation schedule and unique circumstances the SHEFA program has been through, outsourcing remains the most fiscally prudent option available compared to the alternative offered in the review. This option make sense in terms of actual cost impact to the program detailed in the full text of the SHEFA response to OPA at www.saipanshefa.com.

The review further noted that contract timetable does not fit with traditional schedule; compensation schedule appear accelerated compared to traditional delivery schedule; and tasks repetitive.

What seemingly appears at first impression to be repetitive tasks upon closer scrutiny would readily prevail as a necessary antecedent in facilitating program growth, development, renewal and expansion, in order that SHEFA becomes a viable and sustainable program, just as any new and emerging program would require, no matter the modality of delivering—whether performed or ascribed by negotiated deliverables by the governing board or by the prescriptive and ministerial list of position description assigned a civil servant. For to engage in the latter proposition is by all accounts ill advised, given the uncertain beginning of and externally induced instability sown into the SHEFA program, not to mention the constant external tinkering which the SHEFA has been subjected to since 2006 to this day, and no less the overarching overtures of collapsing programs.

In its response to the accelerated progress and delivery, including contract progress payment item, the board pointed out that actual disbursement was not performed in accordance to the stipulated term in contract. To the contrary, the initial payment issue on one contract was nine months past the commencement date of contract; the subsequent payment 11 months past stipulated terms; and the remaining balance more almost 40 months past due and unpaid. The same situation is true with another contract. Though the first payment was issued almost two months from the commencement date of contract subsequent payments were not disbursed in four months as concluded in the review, but in seven months from the date of contract commencement. In fact, the full payment of this contract is 14 months behind scheduled and unpaid.

The SHEFA governing board maintains the position that it has and continues to operate the flagship municipal postsecondary assistance program in the interests and needs of college students and residents of the island of Saipan. As the first and only municipal higher education assistance program for Saipan, the SHEFA board and Mayor Juan Tudela are committed to a fair, impartial, responsive, sensible and responsible program, one which is in compliance with applicable provisions of statute and regulations.

Evidence of the responsibility with which the board has exercised its due diligence is seen over the fact that the program has not incurred cost overruns on both student assistance and program operation budget. So too has the SHEFA board amply demonstrated fiscal restraint by its explicit refusal to take advantage of publicly funded government perks and extravagances that fall within the meaning of public purpose. Instead, SHEFA has remained dedicated to and has in fact invested 97 percent of its funding on direct student assistance, only a pittance on operational expenses.

With an unprecedented level of accomplishment in a compressed timetable, the SHEFA board and Mayor Tudela have every reason to stand proud in embracing and joining forces with parents, college students and honorable founding fathers, supporters and friends of SHEFA in the Legislature and the greater community. For they deserve the credit for the over 100 SHEFA scholars who attained their college degrees on Saipan and abroad in areas of high priority need for Saipan in the field of education, accounting, nursing, hospitality, computer science, among others.

To be sure, SHEFA's priority field list comports with OPA's job study conducted last year. The only difference being that SHEFA has addressed the area of high workforce need for Saipan since Fall 2004, way before the understudy was initiated, and has worked on some of the recommendations advocated in the report.

In other words, the SHEFA board and Mayor Tudela have delivered on the mission of SHEFA "to invest the limited human capital resources of qualified residents of Saipan...in recognition of the need for educated citizenry and workforce on Saipan, with the broad expectation of SHEFA and assurance from…recipients to provide services on Saipan in the private sector, government, nongovernmental organizations…(and) not-for-profit organizations."

For its part, the government board underscored the need for appropriate public policies to provide guidance, direction and govern the conduct of future "review" of government agencies to include but not limited to:

- require a "review" to ascertain appropriate content validation between and across programs in order to properly establish inter or intra agency program comparability relative to program delivery and/ or program effectiveness in part or in whole that is readily accessible in introductory text to research, program review checklist or standard evaluation procedure and process in order to raise the bar and standard of review above and beyond discretionary due diligence;
- Mandating reasonable opportunity for an entry briefing to all appropriate parties at a time, date and venue determined by the agency involved, and not at the discretion of the reviewing agency conducting the review;
- Requiring reasonable opportunity for an exit briefing to all appropriate affected parties at a time, date and venue as determined by the agency involved, and not at the discretion of the reviewing agency conducting the review.
- Requiring a reasonable opportunity to prepare and provide written response(s) in reference to information contained in a review during or before the conclusion of any review in part or in whole;
- establishing a mechanism that promotes fair and balanced discourse in the manner in which reports are prepared and disseminated without due notice to respondent(s) on a deadline mutually set by all parties involved in or affected by a "review"; and
- applying the Generally Accepted Protocols and Government Auditing Standards on any "review".

More detail information on SHEFA's response may be accessed by logging to the SHEFA website homepage at www.saipanshefa.com.

For specific information about the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program may also be accessed by visiting selected menu options at the SHEFA website or direct electronic mail contact to the office 24/7 at contact@saipanshefa.com. Regular office hours are from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Otherwise, staff may be contacted directly at telephone number (670) 233-5995 or queries may be delivered through SHEFA's facimile at (670) 233-5996. Due to time differences abroad, the SHEFA Office is equipped with retrievable voice messages and may be accessed at (670) 233-5995.

Application and support materials for Fall 2008 may be submitted in person or online (electronically) to SHEFA before or on July 1, 2008. Downloads forms and pertinent SHEFA materials may be accessed via the website by logging to "Document, Regulation and Law" menu.

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,476.30
Down 3.30
(-0.06%)

HONG KONG
23,130.66
Up 538.33
(+2.40%)

JAKARTA
2,411.49
Up 12.78
(+0.53%)

TOKYO
14,354.37
Up 380.64
(+2.72%)

K. LUMPUR
1,229.35
Up 3.81
(+0.31%)

MANILA
2,620.76
Up 66.01
(+2.58%)

SINGAPORE
3,029.67
Up 49.11
(+1.65%)

SEOUL
1,760.82
Up 13.47
(+0.77%)

BANGKOK
784.72
Up 2.08
(+0.27%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,307.35
+1.37%

S&P
1,360.03
0.00%

NASDAQ
2,454.50
+2.09%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0655
British Pound	0.5123
Canadian Dollar	1.0288
Chinese Yuan	6.9073
Euro	0.6512
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8130
Indian Rupee	42.9050
Indonesian Rupiah	9,325.5000
Japanese Yen	108.5000
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2760
New Zealand Dollar	1.3334
Philippine Peso	44.3850
Singapore Dollar	1.3774
South Korean Won	1,044.0000
Swiss Franc	1.0515
Taiwan Dollar	30.3820
Thailand Baht	33.3400

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

UN chief: Saudi to boost oil production

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia plans to increase its oil production by 200,000 barrels a day next month, the kingdom's oil minister told U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon on Sunday, according to Ban's spokesman.

The U.N. secretary-general met with Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi in the port city of Jiddah during a one-day trip to the world's largest oil producer.

Farhan Haq, a spokesman who is traveling with Ban, said in an e-mail that the U.N. chief said al-Naimi told him Saudi Arabia would increase oil production by 200,000 barrels a day from June to July. In May, the kingdom increased its production by 300,000.

By July, production should be at 9.7 million barrels a day, Haq said.

Ban also said Saudi Arabia understands that the current price of oil, which topped $139 per barrel earlier this month, is not normal, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

"The king believes that the current oil prices are abnormally high, and he is ready to restore prices to their appropriate levels," SPA quoted Ban as telling reporters in Jiddah. The report carried by SPA was in Arabic, and it did not say what language Ban spoke in.

Saudi Arabia is concerned that sustained high oil prices will eventually slacken the world's appetite for oil, affecting the kingdom in the long run.

The 200,000-barrel-a-day boost is not insignificant—it will raise Saudi Arabia's daily production by about 2 percent. But to a market that has been sending oil prices soaring to record heights due in part to strong global demand, the move might be seen as marginal.

The oil market largely ignored Saudi Arabia's 300,000-barrel-a-day output increase last month.

In electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange late Sunday, crude oil futures were down 54 cents at $134.32 a barrel.

The kingdom has called for a meeting of oil producing and consuming countries on June 22 in Jiddah to discuss ways of dealing with soaring energy prices.

The New York Times reported on Saturday, citing unnamed analysts and oil traders briefed by Saudi officials, that a production increase of about 500,000 barrels per day was to be announced following the meeting.

AP

Jared Cavalier, owner of Segway of Ohio, installs an accessory to a Segway Thursday, June 5, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio.

High gas prices boost interest in Segway scooters

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Paul Feeney didn't commute with the Segway his parents gave him for Christmas in 2005 until he moved close to work this spring. The battery-powered, energy-efficient scooter makes the 1.4-mile commute fun, the 35-year-old Sun Microsystems sales representative said.

It also made his commute a lot less expensive.

When the Segway Personal Transporter came out in 2001, inventor Dean Kamen said the self-balancing vehicles would revolutionize short-distance travel. At first, however, they appealed mostly to police, mall security crews and airport personnel.

With gas prices escalating, sales are growing. One Segway dealer identified as one of its top five in the U.S.—Riva Motorsports of Pompano Beach, Fla.—sold almost 200 in 2006, 250 in 2007 and 175 in the first five months of 2008, said Riva spokesman Matt Sermarini.

Utility finds foes to renewable energy line plan

SAN DIEGO (AP)—It seems like an idea any environmentalist would embrace: Build one of the world's largest solar power operations in the Southern California desert and surround it with plants that run on wind and underground heat.

Yet San Diego Gas & Electric Co. and its potential partners face fierce opposition because the plan also calls for a 150-mile, high-voltage transmission line that would cut through pristine parkland to reach the nation's eighth-largest city.

The showdown over how to get renewable energy to consumers will likely play out elsewhere around the country as well, as state regulators require electric utilities to rely less on coal and natural gas to fire their plants—the biggest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S.

Providers of renewable power covet cheap land and abundant sunshine and wind in places like west Texas, Montana, Wyoming and California's Mojave Desert and Imperial Valley. But utility executives say no one will build plants without power lines to connect those remote spots to big cities.

"This is a classic chicken and the egg," said Mike Niggli, chief operating officer of Sempra Energy's utilities business, which includes SDG&E. "No one can develop a project if they can't send (the electricity) anywhere. You need transmission."

AP

The wind farm on the Campo Indian Reservation sits peacefully at sunset in an area that San Diego Gas and Electric considers a major potential source for wind energy, Nov. 5, 2007 in Campo, Calif.

SDG&E's $1.5-billion power line would cut 23 miles through the middle of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, a spot known for its hiking trails, wildflowers, palm groves, cacti and spectacular mountain views.

"This transmission line will cross through some of the most scenic areas of San Diego," said David Hogan of the Center for Biological Diversity. "It would just ruin it with giant, metal industrial power lines."

Environmentalists are pushing for renewable power to be generated closer to heavily populated areas, rather than brought in from distant sites. They point to Southern California Edison's ambitious plan for solar panels on Los Angeles-area rooftops as an example of a better approach.

Utilities say the roof panels will help but won't produce nearly enough power to satisfy state requirements.

The California Public Utilities Commission is scheduled to vote as soon as August on SDG&E's proposed Sunrise Powerlink, which would carry enough power for about 750,000 homes—or more than half of the utility's customers.

Regulators in 29 states and the District of Columbia are forcing utilities to boost the use of renewable energy to run electric plants.

California has been among the most aggressive, with the state's three investor-owned utilities required to get 20 percent of power from renewables by the end of 2010.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to reach 33 percent by 2020.

SDG&E, with 1.4 million customers, is California's laggard, getting just 6 percent of its power from renewables. PG&E Corp.'s Pacific Gas and Electric, with 5.1 million customers, gets 12 percent. Edison International's Southern California Edison, with 4.8 million customers, gets 16 percent.

'Higher tax helps smokers quit'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York smokers have been sent outside in all kinds of weather, coughed at in disdain, and now they are burdened with the most expensive cigarette taxes in the nation. Now, to add cost to injury, the state is declaring its highest-in-the-nation cigarette tax a success.

The number of calls to the state's Smoker's Quitline quadrupled to nearly 10,000 calls during the week of June 2, when the full $2.75-a-pack tax kicked in, New York Health Commissioner Dr. Richard Daines said. Fewer than 2,300 people called for help during the same week in 2007.

"Not everyone that tries, quits," Daines said. "We estimate about 140,000 New Yorkers will successfully quit smoking. We may have more than a million try to cut down or stop, but this is how you get people to try: give them multiple chances and multiple reasons to stop."

The increase that took effect June 3 sent the tax from $1.25 to $2.75 per pack. In most of the state, cigarettes range between $6 and $8 a pack, depending on brand and store price. They can cost as much as $10 in New York City, which has its own tax.

Nation

Hundreds ordered to flee homes in Iowa City

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—A week's work of frantic sandbagging by students, professors and the National Guard couldn't spare this bucolic college town from the surging Iowa River, which has swamped more than a dozen campus buildings and forced the evacuation Sunday of hundreds of nearby homes.

The swollen river, which bisects this city of about 60,000 residents, was topping out at about 31.5 feet—a foot and a half below earlier predictions. But it still posed a lingering threat, and wasn't expected to begin receding until Monday night.

"I'm focused on what we can save," University of Iowa President Sally Mason said as she toured her stricken campus. "We'll deal with this when we get past the crisis. We're not past the crisis yet."

The university said 16 buildings had been flooded, including one designed by acclaimed architect Frank O. Gehry, and said others were at risk.

Iowa City Mayor Regenia Bailey said 500 to 600 homes were ordered to evacuate and hundreds of others were under a voluntary evacuation order through the morning. The city had no estimate of the number of homes that had actually flooded.

Bailey said homeowners will not be allowed back until the city determines it's safe.

AP

Russ Ogden watches over pumps that are keeping water out of his mother Dolores Ogden's home in Davenport, Iowa, Sunday, June 15, 2008.

Gov. Chet Culver said it was "a little bit of good news" that the river had crested, but cautioned that the situation was still precarious.

"Just because a river crests does not mean it's not a serious situation," he said. "You're still talking about a very, very dangerous public safety threat."

Elsewhere, state officials girded for serious flooding threats in Burlington and southeast Iowa including Fort Madison and Keokuk. Officials said 500 National Guard troops had already been sent to Burlington, a Mississippi River town of about 27,000, and some people were being evacuated.

Culver said the southeastern part of the state was likely to "see major and serious flooding on every part of the southeastern border of our state from New Boston and down."

In Cedar Rapids—where flooding had forced the evacuation of about 24,000 people from their homes—residents waited hours to get their first up-close look since flooding hammered most of the city earlier this week.

Some grew angry after long waits to pass through checkpoints. Cedar Rapids officials also were inspecting homes for possible electrical and structural hazards.

"It's stupid," said Vince Fiala, who said he waited for hours before police allowed him to walk five blocks to his house. "People are down on their knees and they're kicking them in the teeth."

Police: Officer kills man who beat child to death

TURLOCK, Calif. (AP)—Police killed a 27-year-old man as he kicked, punched and stomped a toddler to death despite other people's attempts to stop him on a dark, country road, authorities said.

Investigators on Sunday were trying to establish the relationship between the suspect and the child they say he killed Saturday night. The Stanislaus County coroner said the boy appeared to be between 1 and 2 years old based on his size, according to county sheriff's deputy Royjindar Singh.

"It's been a long night of wondering, 'Why?'—not only for the officers and the passers-by who stopped and tried to help out, but for anyone. Why would somebody do this?" Singh said.

Singh said the coroner does not plan to confirm the identities of the suspect and victim until Monday. Because his injuries were so severe, the child will have to be identified through a blood or DNA test, he said.

The suspect had a child's car seat in the back of his four-door pickup truck. The truck caught the attention of an elderly couple at 10:13 p.m. Saturday because it was stopped in the two-lane road facing the wrong direction, Singh said.

As they got closer, the couple saw the man brutally beating the toddler behind his truck and throwing the child on the ground, according to Singh. Two or three other cars stopped, an unusual number to be passing through the remote area surrounded by a dairy, a cow pasture, a cornfield and a farmhouse, he said.

"What we got from witnesses is he was punching, slapping, kicking, stomping, shaking," Singh said. "They tried to intervene and get involved, but their efforts really didn't have an effect. The suspect was engaged in what he was doing. He just pushed them off and went back to it."

A sheriff's helicopter responding to emergency calls from the area landed in a cow pasture at 10:19 p.m. carrying a Modesto police officer who shot the man to death after he refused an order to stop beating the child, Singh said.

Paramedics tried to resuscitate the toddler, who was not breathing when they arrived. The boy was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

No children within the dead boy's age range have been reported kidnapped or missing in Stanislaus County, Singh said.

The incident happened on Bradbury Road about 10 miles west of Turlock, a city located about halfway between Sacramento and Fresno.

Study: Americans use Net to look beyond sound bite

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans dissatisfied with political sound bites are turning to the Internet for a more complete picture, a new study finds.

In a report Sunday, the Pew Internet and American Life Project said that nearly 30 percent of adults have used the Internet to read or watch unfiltered campaign material—footage of debates, position papers, announcements and transcripts of speeches.

"They want to see the full-blown campaign event. They want to read the speech from beginning to end," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew group. "It's a push back from the sound-bite culture."

Google Inc.'s YouTube and other video sites have become more popular. Thirty-five percent of adults have watched a political video online during the primary season, compared with 13 percent during the entire 2004 presidential race.

The study also found that 10 percent of adults have used online hangouts like Facebook and News Corp.'s MySpace for political activity, whether it's to add a campaign as a friend on their personal profile pages, discover a friend's political interests or join an online political group.

Of course, video and social networking have grown in general since the last presidential election.

"It is mirroring the broader trends that we see online," Rainie said.

Pew also found online fundraising is up—6 percent of adults have contributed to a campaign using the Internet, compared with 2 percent in 2004.

The Internet has allowed campaigns to reach first-time donors without the expense of direct mail or phone calls. Democrat Barack Obama has been particularly adept at generating small donations from a vast number of Internet users to become the fundraising leader among all the presidential candidates.

Pew found that among Internet users, Obama supporters were about twice as likely as backers of Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican John McCain to have made a campaign contribution online.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. wedding reception evacuated because of fire

ENOLA, Pa. (AP)—Many of the wedding reception guests didn't believe the disc jockey when he announced the hotel was on fire. Then firefighters interrupted the celebration, and newlyweds Trey and Robyn Kunkel knew it wasn't a joke. Fire officials said the fire led to the evacuation of more than 400 guests Saturday night from the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center in East Pennsboro. "We'll never forget this," Robyn Kunkel said. No injuries were reported. Firefighters said flames were confined to a roof area on the hotel wing of the complex, across a parking lot from the convention center where the reception was held.

Northern California tamping down wildfires

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)—Improved weather on Sunday helped crews tamp down several Northern California wildfires that had destroyed dozens of homes and led thousands of residents to evacuate. Evacuation centers began shutting their doors as many of the 9,000 residents who fled from in and around the Butte County town of Paradise returned Sunday to see the damage. At least 74 homes were destroyed and 20 others were damaged in the Paradise area, about 90 miles north of Sacramento. The blaze had charred about 36 square miles, said Scott Upton, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The wildfire was 50 percent contained Sunday mornin.

Obama tells black fathers to engage their children

CHICAGO (AP)—Barack Obama celebrated Father's Day by calling on black fathers, who he said are "missing from too many lives and too many homes," to become active in raising their children. "They have abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men. And the foundations of our families are weaker because of it," the Democratic presidential candidate said Sunday at a largely black church in his hometown. Reminding the congregation of his firsthand experience growing up without a father, Obama said he was lucky to have loving grandparents who helped his mother. He got support, second chances and scholarships that helped him get an education. Obama's father left when he was 2. "A lot of children don't get those chances. There is no margin for error in their lives," said Obama, an Illinois senator.

Defense portrays happy life in double-murder trial

WOBURN, Mass. (AP)—Prosecutors at the trial of a British man accused of killing his wife and baby daughter have presented piece after piece of evidence against him: his flight to England after their deaths, his familiarity with the gun used in the killings, his failure to attend the funerals. Yet under questioning from Neil Entwistle's attorneys, every prosecution witness who knew the couple testified in the first week of the trial that Rachel and Neil Entwistle appeared to be in love, happily married and devoted to their 9-month-old daughter, Lillian Rose. If so, why would he do it? That appears to be the question Entwistle's defense attorneys hope will linger in jurors' minds as the defense seeks to debunk the allegation that Entwistle killed his family because he was in debt and dissatisfied with his sex life.

Gun rights is biggest issue for court to decide

WASHINGTON (AP)—One momentous case down, another equally historic decision to go. The Supreme Court returns to the bench Monday with 17 cases still unresolved, including its first-ever comprehensive look at the Second Amendment's right to bear arms.

The guns case—including Washington, D.C.'s ban on handguns—is widely expected to be a victory for supporters of gun rights. Top officials of a national gun control organization said this week that they expect the handgun ban to be struck down, but they are hopeful other gun regulations will survive.

Last week, the court delivered the biggest opinion of the term to date with its ruling, sharply contested by the dissenting justices, that guarantees some constitutional rights to foreign terrorism detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The 5-4 decision, which Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for his four more liberal colleagues, was the first case this term that broke along ideological lines.

The conservative-liberal split was seen frequently last term, including in cases that limited abortion rights, reined in voluntary school desegregation plans, made it harder to sue for pay discrimination and prodded the Bush administration to combat global warming by regulating tailpipe emissions. Kennedy was the only justice in the majority in all those cases, siding with conservatives in all but the global-warming dispute.

It's hardly unusual that the cases that take until late spring to resolve are the most contentious and most likely to produce narrow majorities.

Asia

Tuesday deadline set to ransom kidnapped Philippine journalists

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants have set a Tuesday deadline for the payment of a ransom for the release of a popular TV news anchor and her cameraman, who were kidnapped in the southern Philippines, a negotiator said.

Alvarez Isnaji, the mayor of Sulu province's Indanan township, said suspected Abu Sayyaf militants phoned him Monday morning and said talks to secure the release of ABS-CBN anchor Ces Drilon would be called off if the ransom is not paid before Tuesday afternoon. Isnaji is one of the negotiators in the talks.

"They gave me a warning: if the money does not arrive by noon (0400 GMT) Tuesday... there will be no more negotiation," he told reporters in a briefing broadcast by Manila radio stations from southern Jolo island.

Isnaji earlier said the abductors demanded 20 million pesos (US$450,000) in ransom. But he put the amount at 15 million pesos (US$337,000) Monday.

He said he also spoke to a tearful Drilon who told him, "Mayor, I want to get out of here."

Isnaji said the kidnappers told him that Drilon's family agreed to pay the ransom, but that Drilon told him she only agreed to have her family talk to them because they were pointing a gun at her.

Drilon told Isnaji that her family had no money to pay the ransom, he said.

Isnaji said he plans to send an emissary to the abductors. He has not met face-to-face with the kidnappers.

ABS-CBN, the country's largest television network, said Monday it was doing everything it could to help Drilon, cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion and their families through their ordeal, but that the company would not give in to the kidnappers' demands.

"ABS-CBN will abide by its policy not to pay ransom because this would embolden kidnap for ransom groups to abduct other journalists, putting more lives at risk," the TV station said in an e-mailed statement.

Japan quake death toll climbs to 9

KURIHARA, Japan (AP)—Rescue teams digging their way through a ravine buried in mud Sunday pulled three bodies from a hot springs inn, bringing the death toll to nine after a powerful earthquake rocked northern Japan.

Soldiers caked in mud and using hand shovels recovered the bodies of the inn's 80-year-old owner and two others buried when the 7.2-magnitude quake struck Saturday morning, triggering several major landslides.

Four more were believed buried in the wreckage of the inn. Another 100 people in a nearby hamlet remained stranded, some without water, and were being airlifted out by police and military helicopters.

The two-story hot springs resort was inundated by mud, rocks and falling trees when the hill behind it came crashing down.

"It was a tragic disaster," said Isamu Sato, the mayor of Kurihara, a small city that was the hardest hit by the quake. The inn was on Kurihara's outskirts.

The people at the inn were probably having breakfast or preparing for the day ahead when the quake hit a 8:43 a.m. local time, and were not likely to have been bathing, said Shinsuke Yamauchi, a local disaster relief official. Yamauchi said it was a small, family-run inn.

Meanwhile, hospitals treated more than 250 people with injuries, and another dozen were missing. About 300 sought shelter in evacuation centers and city officials inspecting the damage door-to-door urged others to leave homes that were deemed unsafe.

"It was so sudden," said Yotsuko Haga, whose farmhouse was tilted and declared uninhabitable after Saturday's quake.

"I just tried to escape to the outside, but I could barely stand," she said. "Now I don't know where I will go. I must leave here."

A series of powerful aftershocks has hampered search efforts.

More than 470 aftershocks have been recorded since the quake hit and officials warned that more landslides were possible.

A search near a dam where three construction workers were killed was called off Sunday because of fears it may have been cracked by the quake.

"It's so frustrating. We have hardly made any progress because of the sludge," said Masahiro Ishibashi, a soldier searching for the seven missing people at the inn.

15 killed in hunt for escaped inmates

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S.-led coalition and Afghan forces killed more than 15 insurgents during a hunt for inmates who fled prison after a sophisticated Taliban attack that set hundreds free, while Afghan forces recaptured 20 prisoners, officials said Sunday.

The U.S. said it couldn't immediately confirm that any of the 15 killed were escaped prisoners. Five militants were also captured during the Saturday operation, it said.

The provincial police chief of Kandahar province has said 870 prisoners—including some 400 Taliban militants—escaped from the Kandahar prison during a coordinated assault on the facility by dozens of insurgents late Friday.

The chief, Sayed Agha Saqib, said Sunday that Afghan police and army soldiers have recaptured 20 prisoners, including seven former Taliban inmates.

The coalition said the 15 insurgents it killed were in a farming compound in Kandahar province and that the combined forces used air strikes to destroy it after insurgents fired at them.

NATO has said the prison break was a tactical success for the Taliban but would not have a long-term or large impact on the Afghan conflict. However, Afghan officials have warned that dangerous members of the militia are now free, and that the prison attack essentially boosted the insurgents' ranks by 400.

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, residents use rafts to sail through flooded streets in Yangshuo County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Friday, June 13, 2008.

Floods in China kill 57; 1 million flee

BEIJING (AP)—At least 57 people have died and eight are missing in flooding across a broad stretch of southern China, state media reported Monday.

More than 1.2 million people have been forced to flee their homes across nine provinces, including Sichuan, which is still reeling from last month's earthquake that killed almost 70,000 people, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Heavy rain in Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan provinces will further raise water levels downstream, especially in the coastal manufacturing powerhouse of Guangdong, Xinhua reported. Most of those areas are expected to receive more heavy rain over the next 10 days.

The worst-hit province was Guangdong, were 20 people died and eight were still missing, Xinhua said.

Streets and houses along the Xijiang River in Guangdong were submerged in the worst flooding to hit the Pearl River Delta region in 50 years, the official China Daily newspaper said.

"A major flood is feared if rain continues," Huang Boqing, deputy director of the Guangdong flood control and drought relief headquarters, was quoted as saying.

A 130-foot crack opened in the river's embankment near Changzhou, Xinhua said. Nearly 120,000 people fled to high ground in the town of Longhua when river water began to pour through the gap, it said.

"If the crack widened and the dike collapsed, the flood would directly threaten the safety" of the city of Wuzhou on Guangxi's border with Guangdong, Zhang Jinshen, a regional flood control official, was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

Vegetable prices in Guangdong rose by 70 percent Saturday in four cities including Guangzhou, according to the China Daily.

ASIAN BRIEFS

2 killed, 12 wounded in Nepal bomb blast

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A bomb exploded at a busy bus station in south Nepal, killing two people and wounding 12, officials said Sunday. The bomb exploded as passengers waited for a bus at the station Saturday night at Chandranigahapur town, about 150 miles south of the capital, Katmandu. Rautahat district's chief official Durga Bhandari said two of the injured were in critical condition and 10 others were in serious condition and getting treatment at local hospital. A little-known armed outfit calling themselves Tarai Army called the local newspaper to claim responsibility.

Karzai threatens to send forces into Pakistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai threatened Sunday to send Afghan troops after notorious Taliban leaders inside Pakistan in an angry warning to his eastern neighbor that he will no longer tolerate cross-border attacks. The threat—the first time Karzai has said he would send forces into Pakistan—comes only days after a sophisticated Taliban assault on Kandahar's prison freed 870 prisoners, and six weeks after Karzai survived his fourth assassination attempt. Karzai has long pleaded with Pakistan and the international community to confront tribal area safe havens, and U.S. officials have increased their warnings in recent weeks that the sanctuaries in Pakistan must be dealt with.

Pakistan: Lawyers promise more protests

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A top leader of Pakistan's popular lawyers movement Sunday promised more, larger rallies on the heels of a massive protest in the capital demanding the government restore judges ousted by President Pervez Musharraf. Aitzaz Ahsan gave no date for the future protests, but his comments indicated that the lawyers did not intend to ease their campaign for the restoration of the judges—a subject that threatens to split the new coalition government and hasten the demise of the unpopular president.

Lee: SKorea won't import old US beef

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president vowed Sunday not to allow the import of meat from older cattle, in hopes of quelling public anger at the government's decision to resume beef imports from the United States. President Lee Myung-bak's comments came as the chief American and South Korean trade envoys launched talks in Washington aimed at resolving the dispute over the resumption of U.S. beef shipments. Lee said he has received a positive reply from the U.S. on measures under which the American beef industry would voluntarily not ship meat from cattle older than 30 months.

News reports: Japan, China agree on gas deal

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and China have agreed on a gas exploration deal in the East China Sea, striking a compromise in the long dispute, news reports said Monday. Kyodo News agency, citing sources with knowledge of contacts between the two sides, said late Sunday that the two nations are expected to announce the deal as early as this week. The Nihon Keizai daily, Japan's top business paper, also said Monday that the two governments were finalizing details on the gas deal.

World

West Bank poverty pushes boys into work force

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Deep in the mechanic's pit, 12-year-old Jihad Robin found refuge, secretly smoking cigarettes on a break from his job in a car repair shop.

He left school at age 9 when teachers told him that since he couldn't read, he would have to fall back two grades. His parents, unable to make ends meet, forced him to go to work.

The West Bank has high unemployment, with the Palestinian economy still struggling from fighting with Israel and restrictions on travel because of security checkpoints that Israel says are needed to stop suicide bombers.

So stories like Jihad's are common. Palestinian government regulations set the minimum working age at 15, but the law is not enforced. The most recent available figures show that about 35,000 children aged 15 or younger worked full-time in 2006, up from 18,000 in 2004, said Mamoun Eid, an official in the Palestinian Labor Ministry.

AP

Palestinian Mohammed Khalil, 12, looks on while working in a scrap yard on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Ramallah, Tuesday, April 7, 2008.

Still, West Bankers say the problem is less acute than in some poor countries, because Palestinian parents put a high premium on keeping their children in school.

Jihad works nine hours a day, six days a week at the garage outside the city of Ramallah. He lifts batteries and heavy parts, and sometimes fixes electric systems.

"I prefer the younger ones," said the boss, who would only give his name as Abu Nidal in case the publicity provoked a crackdown on hiring minors. "They are smarter and they learn most quickly. And they cost less." Jihad's daily wage of 30 shekels ($9) is a third of what his adult co-workers make.

In a nearby workshop, blacksmith Tayseer Qayem employs 15-year-old Mansour Farhat, who left school in third grade. Qayem, 29, said he opposes child labor in principle, and that he hired Mansour to keep him off the streets and out of trouble.

Like many of the children who work in the garages, Jihad hopes one day to own his own. That's what his employer did, starting work at age 10 and working his way up.

Jihad's bigger dream is to become a pilot and "fly to New York," he says. "Sometimes I get so tired, it's so hot and the stuff I carry is so heavy."

He steals or mooches cigarettes for his breaks, trying not to be seen. "If they catch me, they will take me to my father who will beat me for smoking," he said. After work, he goes home to play hide-and-seek with neighborhood friends.

Other children in the Ramallah area work collecting scrap metal, scavenging through garbage, delivering groceries to homes and peddling gum, tissues and pens to motorists at intersections.

In another Ramallah auto shop, 16-year-old Awwad Awwad fixed the wheels of an orange Daewoo. He has had the job for two years. His face smeared with grease, he says the job exhausts him, but adds proudly: "I feel like a man, not like a child."

Anti-US cleric shifts his strategy for Iraq elections

BAGHDAD (AP)—Followers of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr will run candidates on other party tickets in upcoming Iraqi provincial elections, a top aide said Sunday, in an apparent bid to sidestep what they believe is a government campaign against their movement.

The decision is part of a sweeping strategic change by the militant cleric as the Shiite-led government gave Shiite militiamen in an al-Sadr stronghold four days to surrender heavy weapons or face arrest.

The new strategy includes a decision announced Friday by al-Sadr to set up an elite wing within his Mahdi Army to fight the Americans, enabling him to reassert control over his 60,000-strong militia that the U.S. says has fallen under Iranian influence.

Al-Sadr's followers hope to use this fall's provincial council balloting to loosen the grip on power that their Shiite rivals have enjoyed since the January 2005 elections, which the Sadrists boycotted.

"We are not boycotting the provincial elections," said Sheik Salah al-Obeidi, a senior al-Sadr aide in the Shiite holy city of Najaf. "We will participate but not in a clear list for Sadrists. We will support independent figures and people whom we find suitable."

Al-Obeidi also said any Sadrists who want to run in the elections would join other tickets and represent the movement on an individual basis.

The elections—expected to begin in October—will choose governing councils in Iraq's 18 provinces and are seen as a key step in repairing the country's sectarian rifts.

Most Sunnis also boycotted the January 2005 balloting, enabling Shiites and Kurds to win a disproportionate share of power, even in areas with a substantial Sunni population.

The Sadrists now believe the 2005 boycott was a major political blunder, enabling Shiite parties that have cooperated with the Americans to wield power in the oil-rich Shiite heartland.

For months, however, the Sadrists have been complaining that their Shiite political rivals in the government have been targeting their movement, arresting many of their followers under the pretext of security crackdowns.

Sadrist officials had told reporters that many locally prominent supporters in the south were unwilling to run under the Sadrist banner for fear of arrest or harassment by security forces that are controlled by rival Shiite groups.

"We will be involved in the elections but not in the name of the Sadrist movement," al-Obeidi told The Associated Press. "So we will get rid of those provincial councils that really harmed us."

Al-Obeidi said the decision to establish an elite force within the Mahdi Army was taken because al-Sadr believes the U.S. will eventually win Iraqi approval of a new security agreement enabling American soldiers to stay in the country after the U.N. mandate expires.

Runoff election won't end Zimbabwe's crisis

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Andrew Makoni wants change in Zimbabwe, his homeland. But he won't be there to vote for it. Instead, the human rights lawyer will be in neighboring South Africa, hiding from government-hired killers he says have targeted him.

The big question is whether the scare tactics President Robert Mugabe has undertaken will enable him to crush opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai in the June 27 runoff election.

Makoni holds out hope that world leaders will step in and perhaps broker a deal modeled on Kenya's which brought the opposition into government following its violently disputed presidential election.

Many Zimbabweans are convinced Tsvangirai would win a fair vote, and that Mugabe will rig it. But "even if you rig the election, you will not be able to resolve the crisis in Zimbabwe," Makoni said in an interview in Johannesburg.

Tsvangirai's No. 2, Tendai Biti, has little faith in outside intervention, saying Zimbabwe's neighbors and the broader international community showed little willingness to act after the March 29 first round, which Tsvangirai claimed to have won.

"It's a farce and it's an indictment of African leaders," Biti said in an interview in Johannesburg Thursday.

Moments later he boarded a plane home, was arrested on arrival and disappeared into police custody. Police have said he will be charged with treason, which can carry the death penalty. He was brought to court on Saturday but only after a judge ordered police to do so a second time.

Tsvangirai came in first in a field of four on March 29, but official results show he fell short of the 50 percent plus one vote needed to avoid a runoff.

But since then Mugabe, oblivious to a rising tide of world censure, has steadily tightened the screws on the electorate.

Bush soaks in Europe like only a president can

LONDON (AP)—Tea at Windsor Castle with Queen Elizabeth II, bike rides in a Paris park and the lush German countryside, a stunning view from a Renaissance villa outside Rome, a rare stroll with the pope in the Vatican's private gardens?

Not a bad life. It seems President Bush is learning to enjoy the perks of traveling abroad as the most powerful man in the world.

The usual Bush foreign trip is packed from dawn (or earlier) to dusk (or later) with meetings, roundtables, official dinners and speeches. All those things are present, too, on this week's European farewell, the fifth of eight or more overseas jaunts he is taking this year. Iran, Iraq, climate change, trade, the Middle East—all those weighty and difficult problems have dominated his discussions with fellow leaders.

The difference on this super-glam European tour, probably Bush's last one to the continent as president, is the pace.

He hasn't gotten going on a couple of days until 10 or 11 in the morning. There was downtime in the afternoons, and even one day—in Rome—that ended about 4 p.m.

AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, left, with US President George Bush and his wife Laura, right, looking at some armour in St George's Hall, Windsor Castle Sunday June 15, 2008.

Evenings were busy for the typically early-to-bed president. On five of his seven nights away, he was the guest of honor at a lavish dinner.

But each one was held in a beautiful old-world setting, like a baroque lakeside castle north of Berlin, Paris' elegant presidential Elysee Palace, 10 Downing Street in London and the ornate residence of the American ambassador to France.

And Bush is certainly seeming to enjoy the food.

He raved about the asparagus delicacy he was served in Germany—the thick, white kind rather than the usual green variety. In Rome, he commented happily about leaving the city "with a little extra culture—and a little fatter." He effusively thanked French President Nicolas Sarkozy for dinner—and the chance to see his famously beautiful new wife, the model-singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy whom Bush called "a really smart, capable woman, and I can see why you married her." The fare at a London dinner with Prime Minister Gordon Brown featured more treats, of the traditional British variety, such as Scottish salmon, roast Gloucestershire beef and Yorkshire pudding.

Overdrive

Suzuki's GSX-R600 is user-friendly.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEST-SELLING SPORT BIKES

2008 SUZUKI GSX-R600
Base price: $9,399
Powertrain: Liquid-cooled, fuel-injected, four-stroke, DOHC, in-line four-cylinder, four valves per cylinder, six-speed
Displacement: 599 cc
Seat height: 31.9 inches
Dry weight: 363 pounds
Road test MPG: 35 (based on 209 miles traveled) (Uses 91 octane gas)

2008 YAMAHA YZF-R6
Base price: $9,599
Powertrain: Liquid-cooled, fuel-injected, four-stroke, DOHC, in-line four-cylinder, four valves per cylinder, six-speed
Displacement: 599 cc
Seat height: 33.5 inches
Dry weight: 366 pounds
Road test MPG: 37 (based on 198 miles traveled) (Uses 91 octane gas)

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Sport bike best-sellers square off

By SUSAN CARPENTER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Yamaha's 2008 YZF-R6 is track-friendly.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

High revving sport bikes tend to rattle cages. If it isn't the high-pitched scream of their pipes, it's the exposed skin and mohawked helmets of their riders that make drivers jump out of their bucket seats.

Powered with high-octane gas and run on seemingly higher levels of testosterone, the 600-cc class accounts for more than half of the supersport bikes sold in the U.S. It's a highly competitive segment—one that doesn't just put a premium on "fast" but on fast-paced, every-other-year overhauls to keep up with the market's expectations for trickle-down-from-the-track technologies and performance.

For 2008, the fight is between the sport bike bestsellers for Suzuki and Yamaha: the GSX-R600 and the YZF-R6. The two bikes have been locked in karmic battle since 2006, when they fell into the same reinvention schedule, pitting Suzuki against Yamaha on the even model years, just as Honda has been set up against Kawasaki to swirl nunchucks on the odd.

Commuting is the No. 1 use for 600-cc sport bikes. Even so, the racetrack is where both bikes are designed to shine. The GSX-R just adds a little more user-friendliness to the mix, whereas the YZF-R6 requires a little more finesse to access its powers.

"Race-track performance in a street-legal package" was Suzuki's guiding principle for its 2008 overhaul of the "Gixxer" 600, which has been the best-selling sport bike in the U.S. since 2004 and the best-selling Japanese motorcycle overall as of 2007.

Being such a populist bike, the Gixxer has a different demographic profile than the R6. Its average rider is three years younger, three years less experienced and generally less inclined to take his bike to the track. It's also a first bike for many riders. Suzuki's redesign takes all those factors into consideration, making the Gixxer more street-oriented and easy to ride.

There is no horsepower gain in the redesign. The biggest change on this 11-year-old model is an increase in the low to middle range of its power band (where most street riders ride) without sacrificing the top-end revs needed by racers.

Riding streets and canyons, I found the Gixxer's torque wasn't so torque-y that the bike wanted to launch out from under me. High-rpm downshifts were also worry-free and smooth, thanks to a refined back torque limiter or slipper clutch.

The chassis on the new Gixxer is virtually unchanged. There's a new aluminum subframe to help offset some of the weight gain necessitated by its new catalyzed exhaust, but the biggest handling improvements are due to a new, electronically controlled steering damper.

For all the finessing of its under-the-hood technology, it's funny that at least part of the Gixxer's popularity comes from something seemingly mundane but incredibly important: its saddle. The Gixxer's is 31.9 inches tall, an inch and a half lower than the R6.

"Razor-sharp handling" was the M.O. for this year's R6 update, which, again, responds to the bike's demographics. Because R6 riders tend to be slightly older (30), more experienced (nine years riding) and more inclined toward the track than the average 600-cc sport bike buyer, that's where Yamaha's taken its redesign.

Yamaha's direction for the 9-year-old R6 is the opposite of the Gixxer's. It's become even more tunnel-visioned on the track. Where the Gixxer focuses on the bottom to middle of its power band, the R6 sets its sights on the middle and the top—increasing the bike's mid-range pull and upper-end power with the help of new pistons that increase the engine's compression ratio and a set of secondary fuel injectors that kick in at 6,000 rpm.

The biggest difference for me with the R6 versus the Gixxer is the throttle. It takes more skill and a real mastery of the friction zone to avoid over-revving on takeoff. Just 28 percent of R6 riders buy the bike as their first, but its primary use is commuting, which requires a lot of stops and starts, so newbies should beware.

Although more than 50 changes were made to the R6 engine, the most noticeable differences with the bike are in the chassis, which features a Yamaha first: The die-cast subframe is magnesium, which has a greater strength-to-weight ratio than the aluminum used on previous R6 models. The suspension is also modified to be more minutely adjustable, including the ride height.

The R6 is lightweight, responsive, flickable, yada, yada—but riders will want to keep moving because the engine throws some heat. After some serious canyon carving, my left leg got so hot I was almost inclined to try stunting. I wanted to stand on the saddle.

Email Carpenter at susan.carpenter@latimes.com.

Jeep Cherokee Limited

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

I just bought a 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited with a 5.9-liter, 360 cubic-inch engine with 142,000 miles on it. I have some questions: Can you tell me how many were made and what it's worth today? Do you know the estimated fuel mileage, which I don't expect is too much because it has full-time 4WD? The fuel filler gauge has a label that says to use only premium fuel.—Paul J. Davidson, Penn.

A: Chrysler head Bob Lutz first introduced the Grand Cherokee concept vehicle at the 1989 Detroit auto show. Over its lifetime through 1998, 1,662,552 of the original "ZJ" code Grand Cherokees were built, the last being your model in 1998. That's when Chrysler shut its plants down to retool for the all-new 1999 Grand Cherokee, code "WJ."

Chrysler indeed announced that the powerful 5.9-liter would be the power plant for the 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited. It combined the performance of a 245 horsepower V-8 engine with more luxury and authentic Jeep capability. It also sold in overseas markets as the Grand Cherokee LX. By September 1997, the 1998 models went on sale, and the Limited got that new 5.9-liter optional engine. A Special Edition 1998 model Grand Cherokee Laredo was also announced.

In its final year, 14,286 of your Cherokee models were built, and it was the fastest SUV around, accelerating to 60 mph in less than seven seconds. As for price, I found one selling today for $8,000, as 1998 model vehicles are not yet listed in any classic-car price guides. Regarding fuel mileage, the official EPA numbers were 14 city and 18 highway—but I doubt you get that.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

A trip to Seoul's Lotte World

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinansaipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today was going to be an exciting day because we are finally heading off to our long-awaited field trip to Lotte World.

The students could hardly contain their excitement because they all got up pretty early and were all in the bus by 9am as agreed upon the night before.

Unfortunately, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and chaperone Jose C. Tenorio were not able to join the group because it was pretty damp out. Instead, they were treated to a full day of pampering at the hotel's sauna and massage, courtesy of the Junior Chamber International of Saipan.

Each year, the Junior Chamber International of Saipan members take their CNMI delegates to the renowned Lotte World. It's one of the most exciting events that most students look forward to when they visit Seoul.

It was a short ride to Lotte World from the hotel we were staying at—about an hour and a half drive compared to the two- to four-hour drives that we endured the previous days. What actually took us longer to reach Lotte World's giant clock was the traffic jam—everybody and their great-grandmothers also decided to take some time out at Lotte World.

I think I speak for everybody when I say that it was well worth the wait. The bus finally pulled up and let us off at the entrance door of the giant amusement park, which by the way totally reminds of something right out of the story of Alice in Wonderland.

But before the group could indulge themselves to hours filled with unlimited rides and amusement, we all ate cheeseburgers and French fries for lunch at Lotteria. Shortly thereafter, JCI Saipan president Yong Chul Jang and Jae Kim handed out our entrance tickets to the indoor amusement.

Upon entering Lotte World's indoor theme park, we all briefly stood there and stared, mesmerized at all the sights and sounds that makes this theme park one of the most visited sites in Korea.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
The imposing entrance to Lotte World.

Lotte World, located right in the very heart of Seoul, is a recreation complex in Seoul. It consists of the largest indoor theme park in the world, an outdoor amusement park, an island linked by monorail, shopping malls, a hotel, a Korean folk museum, sports facilities and movie theatres in one area.

According to the information pamphlets that were handed to us, it's ranked as the seventh worldwide in attendance, receiving up to 5 million people each year. The place was impressive.

Mr. Kim took the lead by instructing the entire group to ride together on the Spanish Pirate Ship, which swings at an electrifying 75 degrees. We all got on board and we were off.

The first few swings, I thought, "Not bad. I can actually get used to this." Until, it started to pick up some momentum and then I just wanted to yell, "Get me off already!" I had my eyes closed the entire time.

An assortment of cuss words were running through my head at that point—I think I just about said every dirty word in the Urban Dictionary and I'm sure I even made some up along the way. All I can say is that that was one crazy bleepin' ride.

We finally got off and I made sure that I thanked my lucky stars I survived it. From there, the group just went from one crazy thrilling sensational ride to another, from the Gyro Jump to the Flume Ride, from the roller coasters to the carousels. I tried my luck at the Sinbad Ride where it has this boat in a dark lake concept [think Freddy versus Jason when they were battling it out toward the end at the lake] taking you into haunted caves. I'm a sucker for haunted houses so I would have to say this was, by far, my favorite.

Besides the excitement of these rides, Lotte World also contains a variety of parades and laser shows. The 200 performers sing and dance in the World Carnival Parade, which adds excitement to the theme park. There was also an ice rink and an incredibly impressive Korean historical museum.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Some of the performers in the World Carnival Parade.

One can spend an entire day at Lotte World and not even visit or take full advantage of all that it has to offer. It was THAT huge. We spent a good four hours in there until Mayor Tudela met with us at the lobby. Next item on the itinerary was watching Korean pro-baseball.

It was at least an hour ride to the Jamsil Baseball Stadium, right where the Olympic stadium sits. The Jamsil Baseball Stadium is a Seoul landmark that can hold over 30,000 people. It is the home of the Doosan Bears and LG Twins.

On this particular day, the LG Twins would play against the Samsung Twins. The game was exciting despite a number of us not understanding baseball. Regardless, everyone got into it—the JCI sponsors Mr. Jang and Mr. Kim, Mayor Tudela, the chaperones, the students especially, and myself.

The game finally ended at 9pm. Samsung won with the score of 8-4, but it was all in good fun.

By this time, the whole group had already gotten sleepy and tired. We headed back to the hotel and crashed until the next day.

To be continued.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving memory of
Generoso D. Huertas, Sr.
Better known as Gene
Born to life on July 17, 1944
Gene was called by his Creator on June 13, 2008

Starting Tuesday, June 17, nightly rosary
will be prayed at 7:00 p.m. at the CHC Chapel.
Funeral to be announced on a later date.

Your presence and prayers are appreciated.

From Gene's Barber Shop & Family

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late
†MICHIYO
NAKANISHI
MANALILI

invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

Mass will be celebrated daily at Kristo Rai Church beginning Tuesday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 18 at 6:00 a.m.

On the last day, Wednesday, June 18, 2008, we invite all our relatives and friends to join us for breakfast following the 6:00 a.m. Mass at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your presence and prayers during the Daily Masses are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Maraming Salamat Po, Domo Arigato, and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Jorge M. Manalili and Family

Mom lived her life for love of friends and family,
Neither asking for nor wanting in return.
Her days became a sunlit homily,
With others' joy, her joy and main concern.
When we were ill, she also became sick;
When we were cut, she, too, began to bleed.
Of our oil lamp she was the wick,
Drawing her bright flame from our need.
Some say that such behavior's out of date:
That self-fulfillment is the way to grace.
But Mom, without much choice, then chose her fate,
Finding greater truth in an embrace.
She lives on in the sparkle in our eyes:
Laughing, quiet, gentle, loving, wise.

Marvel 'Hulks' out with $54.5M opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Incredible Hulk" was a box-office bruiser, yanking in $54.5 million over opening weekend and laying to rest the stigma of his unappreciated big-screen adventure five years ago.

"The Hulk got a second chance, got angry and came back with a vengeance," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "This was a big question mark going in. The film had a history or a checkered past."

AP

In this image released by Universal Studios, the Hulk is shown in a scene from, "The Incredible Hulk."

1. "The Incredible Hulk," $54.5 million.
2. "Kung Fu Panda," $34.3 million.
3. "The Happening," $30.5 million.
4. "You Don't Mess With the Zohan," $16.4 million.
5. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," $13.5 million.
6. "Sex and the City," $10.2 million.
7. "Iron Man," $5.1 million.
8. "The Strangers," $4.1 million.
9. "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," $3 million.
10. "What Happens in Vegas," $1.7 million.

Ang Lee's "Hulk" opened in 2003 with a whopping $62.1 million weekend but then rolled over and died in subsequent weeks amid terrible word of mouth. That movie crawled to $132.2 million in sales, seemingly a respectable total but actually meager considering its huge first weekend.

Marvel Studios, which financed "The Incredible Hulk," and distributor Universal hope the new movie, starring Edward Norton as the scientist who turns into the Hulk when maddened, will have a longer shelf life and eventually top out with better numbers than its predecessor.

Also rebounding off a bad last movie was director M. Night Shyamalan, whose fright flick "The Happening" with Mark Wahlberg and Zooey Deschanel opened at a sturdy No. 3 with $30.5 million.

Shyamalan, whose blockbusters include "The Sixth Sense" and "Signs," flopped two years ago with "Lady in the Water."

"Night rocked," said Chris Aronson, distribution executive for 20th Century Fox, which released "The Happening," a tale of an airborne toxin that prompts people to kill themselves in ghastly ways. "Any time you're coming off an effort like `Lady in the Water' that was perceived as a disappointment, movie-goers and critics tend to be a little gun-shy, but the numbers speak for themselves."

Fans and critics definitely were gun-shy on "The Incredible Hulk," some expecting the movie to bomb because of the bad taste "Hulk" left in audiences' mouths.

"With all the naysayers, this is a huge accomplishment," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. "For months, they thought this was going to be a bomb."

The new movie is not a sequel to 2003's "Hulk" but, in Marvel's terms, a reboot. Fans found the earlier movie too dark and brooding.

This take is more action-oriented, casting Norton's Bruce Banner as a fugitive in the vein of "The Incredible Hulk" TV series starring Bill Bixby in the 1970s and '80s.

Despite solid reviews and fan buzz, "The Incredible Hulk" did nearly $8 million less over opening weekend than "Hulk." That gap widens even more factoring in today's higher ticket prices.

But the new flick still put up some of the best numbers ever for a movie opening in June. The studio's exit polls show audiences are recommending the movie to friends, giving it a good shot to surpass the total gross of "Hulk," Rocco said.

The movie also pulled in $31 million in 38 other countries, putting its worldwide total at $85.5 million.

DreamWorks Animation and Paramount's "Kung Fu Panda," the previous weekend's No. 1 movie, slipped to second place with $34.3 million, raising its total to $118 million.

A solid June lineup has pushed Hollywood ahead of last year's record box office pace. Since the first weekend of May, domestic grosses total $1.46 billion, up 4.6 percent from 2007's, according to Media By Numbers. Factoring in higher ticket prices, actual movie attendance this summer is up 1.6 percent.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

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Incredible Hulk
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sun - Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00
Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
In this new beginning, scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. Living in the shadows—cut off from a life he knew and the woman he loves, Betty Ross—Banner struggles to avoid the obsessive pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross, and the military machinery that seeks to capture him and brutally exploit his power. As all three grapple with the secrets that led to The Hulk's creation, they are confronted with a monstrous new adversary known as The Abomination, whose destructive strength exceeds even The Hulk's own.

The Happening
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sun - Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
It begins with no clear warning. It seems to come out of nowhere. In a matter of minutes, episodes of strange, chilling deaths that defy reason and boggle the mind in their shocking destructiveness, erupt in major American cities. What is causing this sudden, total breakdown of human behavior? Is it some kind of new terrorist attack, an experiment gone wrong, a diabolical toxic weapon, an out-of-control virus? Is it being transmitted by air, by water--how? For Philadelphia high school science teacher Elliot Moore what matters most is finding a way to escape the mysterious and deadly phenomenon.

★ ★ ★

Kung Fu Panda
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sun - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30
Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:10 7:10 10:05
Sun - Thurs 1:15 4:10 7:10
Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sun - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15
Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

You Don't Mess with the Zohan
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:20 4:05 7:25
Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13

Sex and The City
Fri and Sat @ 4:15 @ 9:45
Sun - Thurs @ 4:15 @
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R

Iron Man
Fri and Sat 1:00 @ 7:05 @
Sun - Thurs 1:00 @ 7:05
Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

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'August: Osage County' takes best-play Tony

NEW YORK (AP)—"August: Osage County," Tracy Letts' scabrous tale of a dysfunctional Oklahoma family, was named best play Sunday at the 2008 Tony Awards ceremony, picking up two acting prizes as well as an award for direction.

Thanking the show's producers, Letts said: "They did an amazing thing. They decided to produce an American play on Broadway with theater actors."

The win was not unexpected since "August" already has won most major theater awards including the Pulitzer Prize for drama and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award.

Deanna Dunagan, who portrays the play's acidulous matriarch, took the actress prize while Rondi Reed, who plays her flighty sister, won in the featured category.

AP

Lin-Manuel Miranda, center, is hoisted up on stage after "In The Heights" won the award for best musical during the 62nd Annual Tony Awards in New York, Sunday, June 15, 2008.

"This is so overwhelming," Dunagan said. "This whole year has been entirely unexpected and astonishing. ... After 34 years in regional theater, I never thought about it (the Tonys). I watched it on television like everybody else."

Anna D. Shapiro, who directed the production, which came from Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company, also triumphed.

"If you're really followed by a star, Tracy Letts hands you 'August: Osage County' and says, 'Wanna?' Then heaven opens up and you get the greatest cast you will ever work with in your entire life," said a tearful Shapiro.

The lavish revival of "South Pacific" picked up five prizes, including director of a musical, and "Boeing-Boeing, a 1960s sex farce filled with slamming doors and eager stewardesses, was named best-revival play. It also won the top acting prize for its star, Mark Rylance.

Stars stay classy at Tony Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a fashion disaster-free night at Sunday's Tony Awards, even though one actress lost her Chanel the night before.

After an airliner lost her luggage—and dress—Alice Eve ("Rock 'n' Roll") said she remedied what could have been a disastrous situation by venturing Sunday to a Prada store for a replacement frock.

Eve's choice: A flapper-style dress in champagne-hued satin and black trim, and black and gold heels by Christian Louboutin, whose red-soled party shoes have become an awards show mainstay.

Martha Plimpton, nominated for featured actress in a play for "Top Girls," arrived with her father, actor Keith Carradine, at Radio City Music Hall in a silver mermaid dress designed by Carolina Herrera.

"I just wanted to look simple and striking—that's all I wanted, and Carolina's the perfect person for that," said Plimpton, wearing chandelier earrings from jeweler Fred Leighton.

Laura Bell Bundy, who portrays Elle Woods in the Broadway musical version of "Legally Blonde," wore an understated black dress with a lace bodice.

Pearl Jam wows Bonnaroo

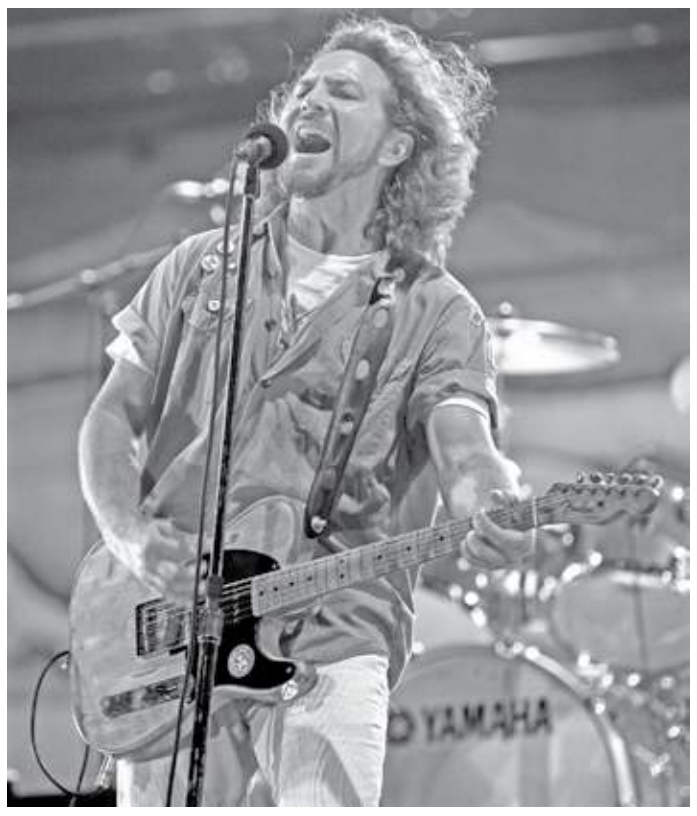
MANCHESTER, Tenn. (AP)—Pearl Jam wowed the Bonnaroo crowd with a three-hour performance late Saturday, returning the band to the grand stage of a music festival.

In the midst of their concert—which went almost an hour longer than scheduled—lead singer Eddie Vedder acknowledged that the band thought they might never again play such a show—and "with good reason." In the summer of 2000, nine fans were trampled during Pearl Jam's performance at Denmark's Roskilde Festival—an experience that shook the band.

There were no mishaps at Bonnaroo, though, and Vedder's faith in festivals appeared to be restored.

"After seeing B.B. King and Jack Johnson and Cat Power, it makes you realize how it can work and be really ... great," Vedder said, referring to acts that played earlier Saturday. Pearl Jam also played Lollapalooza last year.

If he wasn't already, Vedder appeared completely converted to the joys of mega festivals when the band played "Better Man." The audience sang along and lifted lighters in the air, and only then did Vedder realize how large the crowd was. He muttered "That's ... beautiful."



AP

Pearl Jam lead singer Eddie Vedder performs at the Bonnaroo music festival in Manchester, Tenn., Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Pearl Jam was the main stage headliner Saturday at the annual Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, which is held on a giant 700-acre site south of Nashville.

The Friday night bill was led by comedian Chris Rock, who was followed by Metallica. Though the heavy metal band played a generally admired set, the Pearl Jam audience seemed larger and arguably more enthusiastic.

Vedder spoke frequently on politics and the need for change.

"It is proven that this many people can change world," Vedder said to the tens of thousands. "This has to be the time. It can't get any worse."

Others playing Saturday included Ben Folds, Against Me!, Sigur Ros and B.B. King, who was honored with the key to Manchester by the city's mayor, Betty Superstein. King, 82, showed his age by performing—as he has for years—seated. He rattled off a list of ailments: diabetes, a bad back, bad knees.

"I can't remember anything, but I can remember that I am now 82 years old," he said as the audience applauded. King showed he could still put on an excellent show.

Early Saturday began with a deluge that came while My Morning Jacket performed their late night set through the early morning hours. The Louisville-based outfit is something like the Bonnaroo house band; this was their fifth time at the festival.

Though the heat had broken, the band's singer Jim James led them into a cover of Sly and the Family Stone's "Hot Fun in the Summertime," and later, a funky cover of Funkadelic's classic "Hit it and Quit." My Morning Jacket, long a rising star, again cemented its reputation as a preeminent live performer.

The sun later emerged as Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings brought their warm, old-school soul to the Bonnaroo masses, who cheered wildly.

"I wear this dress so I can shake it," Jones informed the crowd, calling it her "Tina Turner dress".

Delayed Kanye West gig angers Bonnaroo crowd

MANCHESTER, Tenn. (AP)—Kanye West's late night performance at Bonnaroo was delayed nearly two hours, angering the festival crowd who responded by chanting "Kanye sucks" and pelting the empty stage with glow sticks.

West had been scheduled to take the main stage at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival at 2:45 a.m. Sunday morning. While the sleepy thousands in the audience waited, a message on the jumbotrons told them West's show would be delayed until 3:15 a.m., and when that didn't happen, that he would start at 3:30. West didn't hit the stage until 4:25 a.m.

The delay was caused by problems setting up West's elaborate stage set, which included an interplanetary landscape of a wavy black platform with a slanted floor in the middle and a video screen above. West performed a spectacular galactic-themed concert complete with interaction with his spaceship, a disembodied female voice named Jane (a kind of sexier HAL).

AP

In this June 16, 2007 file photo, fans cheer at the Bonnaroo music festival in Manchester, Tenn.

Ken Weinstein, a spokesman for the annual festival held on a 700-acre site south of Nashville, said the delay was simply a matter of unloading the Pearl Jam stage (the band went an hour past its scheduled end time, playing until about 1:15 a.m.) and loading the West stage.

The festival, which boasted more than 150 acts spread out over four days, was otherwise very punctual. The West delay was all the worse because of its already very late schedule, and many campers lost energy before the concert and returned to their sleeping bags. Midway through his performance, the morning light showed that the crowd had dwindled substantially.

West had originally been slated to perform at 8:15 p.m. Saturday night, but requested a late night performance. At least in the first hour of his performance, West didn't address the crowd regarding the delay.

Later Sunday, the Bonnaroo crowd was still upset. Pedal steel guitarist Robert Randolph led a "Kanye sucks" chant.

A spokesperson for West didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Family and friends gather to mourn Sydney Pollack

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Friends, family and show business colleagues gathered to remember late Oscar-winning director, producer and actor Sydney Pollack at a private memorial service, according to a person with knowledge of the service.

The person insisted on anonymity because the family wanted details of the service on Saturday to be kept private and the person was not authorized to release any information.

The 73-year-old director, producer and actor died of cancer on May 26 while surrounded by family at his home in Los Angeles, according to his publicist, Leslee Dart. Pollack had been diagnosed with cancer about nine months ago.

Pollack won Academy Awards for best picture and best director for the 1985 epic "Out of Africa." In a career spanning nearly five decades, he directed over 20 films, including "The Firm," "Havana" and "Absence of Malice." The last film he directed was the 2006 documentary "Sketches of Frank Gehry."

Pollack had worked with seemingly every A-list star in the business: Al Pacino, Paul Newman, Meryl Streep, Jane Fonda, Sean Penn, Nicole Kidman, Barbra Streisand and George Clooney. He collaborated with Robert Redford on seven films, including "Out of Africa," 1973's "The Way We Were," 1975's "Three Days of the Condor" and 1979's "The Electric Horseman."

While best known as a director, Pollack frequently stepped in front of the camera. He played the agent of Dustin Hoffman's cross-dressing soap star in 1982's "Tootsie," which he also directed, and the old-school law firm boss in 2007's "Michael Clayton," which he also co-produced. He also appeared on "Will & Grace," "Entourage" and "The Sopranos."

Pollack is survived by his wife, Claire; two daughters, a brother and six grandchildren. Pollack's son, Steven, died in a plane crash in 1993.

Man wants out from trailing in younger brother's shadow

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 24-year-old male. My younger brother, "Chaz," is 22 and has always been extremely popular with everyone —parents, grandparents, guys, girls. He is the better-looking, more talented, smooth-talking brother.

Chaz and I have been close growing up, sharing the same hobbies and doing the same things. But ever since I can remember, people have walked past me on their way to flock around him. The only time girls talk to me is when they ask about him. Chaz juggles three gorgeous girlfriends who know about each other but are still crazy about him.

I don't consider myself ugly or awkward. I do OK. I'm thought of as the nicer, warmer one who people can talk to. I'm not bad at what I do, and I do get compliments on my talents, but often it's followed with, "But your brother ... wow!"

I know I shouldn't compare myself to Chaz, but it hasn't been easy living in his shadow and being seen by everyone as "just his brother." It has done a real number on my self-esteem. What can I do to not let this affect me so much? Should I move someplace where nobody knows him?

CHAZ'S BROTHER

DEAR BROTHER: Let's follow that last sentence to its logical conclusion. You move far away from Chaz -- and then what? Pretend you're an only child? What if he comes to visit? What if you meet someone special and want to introduce her to the family? Only as a last resort should you take such drastic action.

It's time to start working to beef up your sagging self-esteem. One way would be to schedule some sessions with a psychologist who can help you appreciate the traits that distinguish you from your brother. Another important step would be to involve yourself in activities separate and apart from Chaz, which will help you to cultivate an identity of your own.

You are far more than just someone's brother. You are already considered the "nicer, warmer one who people can talk to." Recognize that those are important qualities and something you can build upon.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 13 and still haven't had my first kiss. When all my friends are talking about theirs, I just hope they won't ask me about mine. Boys will ask, "Have you had your first kiss?" or, "Who was your first kiss with?" I hate having to say it hasn't happened yet.

Abby, how should I answer these questions—or should I not answer at all? I don't know what to do.

ASHAMED IN OPELIKA, ALA.

DEAR ASHAMED: A first kiss should be with someone special because it's an event you will remember for the rest of your life. Not having been kissed (yet) at 13 is nothing to be embarrassed about, so stop worrying.

As to all those "curious" boys who ask about your first kiss, it's time you learned you do not have to answer every question that's asked of you. Just smile and say, "I don't kiss and tell." Then ask them if they've had THEIR first kiss yet, and who it was with. And remember—a guy who would talk about another girl would talk about you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Last year I commissioned a friend to make a one-of-a-kind model lighthouse for my brother. When my brother saw it, he thought it was hideous. I suppose I could sell it, but how should I handle the situation when I see my friend again and he asks how my brother liked the lighthouse he made? I don't want to cause hurt feelings, but I'm a terrible liar. Any suggestions?

PATTY IN PORTLAND

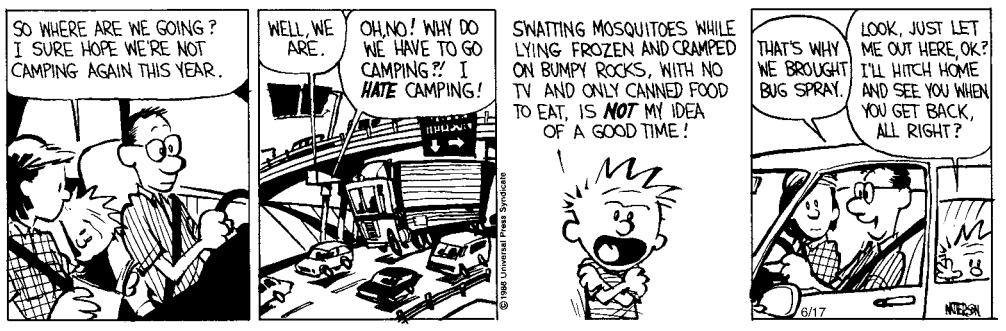
DEAR PATTY: Allow me to offer one. If you are asked about the model, tell your friend that the lighthouse "didn't fit my brother's decor." It's the truth. You don't have to specify that your brother passed judgment on it and found it lacking. Then offer to sell the model back to the artist. If he refuses, feel free to dispose of it as you wish.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SO WHERE ARE WE GOING? I SURE HOPE WE'RE NOT CAMPING AGAIN THIS YEAR.
WELL, WE ARE.
OH,NO! WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO CAMPING?! I HATE CAMPING!
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SWATTING MOSQUITOES WHILE LYING FROZEN AND CRAMPED ON BUMPY ROCKS, WITH NO TV AND ONLY CANNED FOOD TO EAT, IS NOT MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME!
THAT'S WHY WE BROUGHT BUG SPRAY.
LOOK, JUST LET ME OUT HERE, OK? I'LL HITCH HOME AND SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK, ALL RIGHT?
6/17
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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JIM DAVIS 6-17

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By Bryan Basset

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6/17
DO I TAKE A SHORT NAP?
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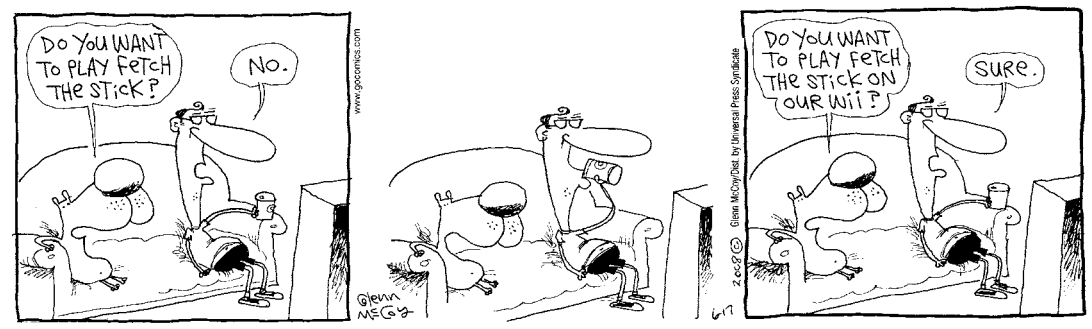
BRIAN BASSET

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy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Glenn McCoy
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

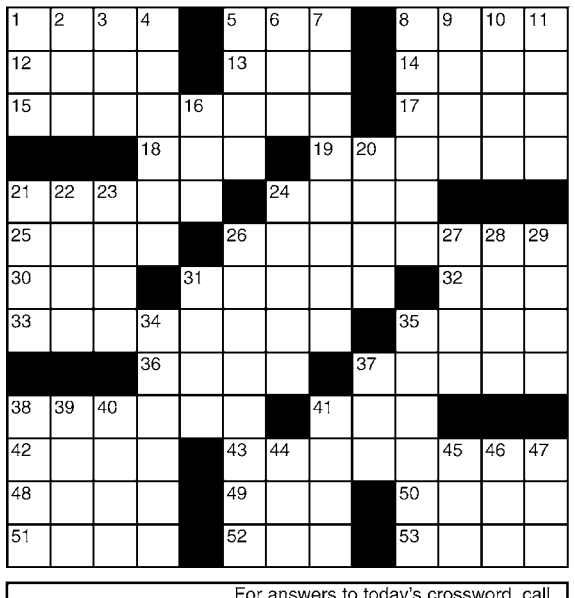
ACROSS
1 Basilica area
5 Hallow-een abbr.
8 Crosby co-star
12 Pedicure site
13 — -jongg
14 Follow the rules
15 Annoy
17 Cere-mony
18 Discor-dance
19 Tracked down
21 Javelin
24 Poison
25 Lofty
26 Ponder
30 Geom. prelim
31 Holler
32 Tease
33 Get lost?
35 Cherry variety
36 Infinites-imal
37 On edge
38 Ahead
41 Feedbag tidbit
42 Get better
43 Raise as if by magic
48 Crèche trio
49 Prior to
50 Satan's forte
51 Detail, for short
52 Operated
53 Coral structure

DOWN
1 Blackbird
2 Standard
3 Knight's title
4 Passover visitor
5 Actor Sharif
6 Witch's familiar, often
7 Nether-lands city
8 Nasty stinger
9 Final notice?
10 Maravich of NBA lore
11 Kept tabs on
16 Sailor
20 Monad
21 Iranian bigwig, once
22 Heap
23 Ova
24 Swag
26 "The Big Sleep" author
27 Related
28 Metal con-tainers
29 Advan-tage
31 Use a teaspoon
34 Slanted type
35 Improved
37 — chi ch'uan
38 Resis-tance mea-sures
39 Tide type
40 Carry on
41 It takes the cake
44 Historic time
45 "Hail, Caesar!"
46 Dead heat
47 Sprite

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	C	■	M	I	F	F	S	■	A	T	M
S	O	P	■	I	N	D	I	A	■	R	H	O
H	E	A	D	S	T	A	R	T	■	M	A	R
■	■	■	A	T	E	■	S	I	T	S	I	N
P	A	L	M	E	R	■	T	R	O	T	■	■
E	R	E	■	R	I	G	■	E	E	R	I	E
N	I	G	H	■	M	I	L	■	S	O	D	A
S	A	P	I	D	■	N	O	V	■	N	O	S
■	■	U	F	O	S	■	B	A	N	G	L	E
U	P	L	I	F	T	■	S	U	E	■	■	■
N	I	L	■	F	O	O	T	L	O	O	S	E
I	C	E	■	E	G	R	E	T	■	A	I	L
T	A	R	■	D	Y	E	R	S	■	R	P	M

Yesterday's answer 6-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Venus Williams, 28; Greg Kinnear, 45; Joe Piscopo, 57; Barry Manilow, 65

Happy Birthday: Everything can be put to rest this year if you take the initiative and make it so. Love will take unique twists and turns, allowing you to find true happiness. Emotional matters can be resolved and a chance to follow a dream will now be made available. Embrace the future with open arms and an open mind. Your numbers are 11, 19, 26, 28, 32, 37

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your mind will be on exotic destinations or anything that will allow your imagination to wander. Take off on an excursion that promises adventure, excitement and new friends. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't give up or in to anyone who is gregarious and pushy. Chances are good your projects will come to pass faster and more successfully than those of your competition because you haven't spent your time bragging. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The time has come to lay your plans on the table and see what kind of a reaction you get. Speak freely about what you want to do and initiate moving forward. Once you have everything out in the open, you will feel less stressed and more confident. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Someone will throw a wrench in your plans. Be prepared to counteract whatever comes your way and you will show how capable you are of handling pressure. A love interest will not be as it appears. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): It's the little extra details you put into whatever you do that will put you above the competition and lead to your victory. Social events will put you in the spotlight. Don't slack off when you have so much to gain. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Relax with friends and have a good time. Don't let your worries drag you down or comments made by colleagues or peers bother you. Remain rational and true to yourself. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Interaction with others will inspire you to make changes. Get out with friends who are insightful and can offer suggestions. It will spark an idea that can take you on a life-altering adventure. Don't dream about what you want to do—make it happen. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't waste time discussing things you have already made your mind up about. Strive to be forceful and let others know where you stand and what your plans are. The groundwork is sufficiently set, so don't wait any longer. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you cut back and size down a little, you will find everything much easier to handle. There is lots that can be done that will help you budget, save and reposition yourself for gains but, for now, you must simplify. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There are changes being made behind your back. Don't make a decision based on what you've been told; ferret out additional information. The element of surprise will help you win. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make home and family the most important part of your life. You have way more to gain if you are helpful and eager to improve your surroundings. A good idea can turn into a potential moneymaker. Use your head, your hands and your ingenuity. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful how you approach people from whom you are trying to get information. You may cause a rift between two friends if you meddle. A love problem will develop if you haven't done what you promised. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are incredibly inquisitive. You are thoughtful, big-hearted, sensitive and compassionate. You are a dreamer, an inventor and highly competitive.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

5	4	6				2		
3				9		8		
1					2		5	6
						1		
	2			6			9	
		8						
9	3		7					2
		7		5				4
		1				7	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	7	1	8	9	4	3	6
9	6	4	3	7	2	5	1	8
1	3	8	6	4	5	7	9	2
3	8	5	4	9	1	6	2	7
4	7	9	2	6	8	1	5	3
2	1	6	5	3	7	8	4	9
6	9	3	8	5	4	2	7	1
8	5	2	7	1	3	9	6	4
7	4	1	9	2	6	3	8	5

Difficulty Level ★ 6/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WEBKINZ **Solution: 8 letters**

P	O	H	S	C	U	R	I	O	E	L	T	R	U	T
L	(S)	U	H	L	I	O	N	N	S	E	N	K	Y	C
U	(Y)	S	O	K	E	L	B	U	T	L	W	C	O	U
S	(O)	K	R	L	I	E	L	L	U	E	O	O	R	D
H	(T)	Y	S	N	A	P	P	I	F	P	R	L	K	O
I	L	O	E	R	W	I	N	A	F	H	C	N	I	R
A	A	Z	R	C	O	O	C	M	E	A	C	U	E	P
D	U	C	K	E	T	I	W	E	D	N	H	G	G	T
O	T	A	R	C	N	E	D	F	P	T	I	S	N	E
P	R	S	H	E	A	R	R	U	O	S	C	E	E	T
T	I	C	A	T	S	U	A	R	T	L	K	C	L	I
I	V	Y	Z	Z	I	U	Q	E	I	S	E	R	L	S
G	O	R	I	L	L	A	R	R	L	E	N	E	A	B
E	S	D	R	A	C	G	N	I	D	A	R	T	H	E
R	Z	N	A	G	N	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	W

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Adopt, Bear, Cats, Challenge, Chicken, Collecting, Crown, Curio, Drquack, Duck, Elephant, Email, Ganz, Gorilla, Horse, Husky, Internet, Learn, Lion, Online, Plush, Product, Quizzy, Register, Secret, Shop, Sleep, Special, Store, Studio, Stuffed, Terrier, Tiger, Toys, Trading cards, Turtle, Unlock, User, Virtual, Website, Wheelofwow, Wplus, Yorkie

Yesterday's Answer: Threads

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Another dramatic finish for Woods forces a playoff

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Tiger Woods wasn't sure if his left knee would allow him to finish 72 holes of the U.S. Open. After yet another defining moment at Torrey Pines, he was thrilled to get a chance at 18 more.

Down to his last stroke, Woods holed a 12-foot birdie putt that curled into the right side of the cup on the 18th hole to force a playoff with Rocco Mediate, who could only watch on TV as Woods delivered another epic moment in an Open loaded with them.

Mediate, trying to become the oldest champion at age 45, two-putted for par from above the ridge for an even-par 71 to finish at 1-under 283, the first time since 2004 that someone broke par in a U.S. Open.

It looked like it might be good enough when Woods and Lee Westwood of England, both one shot behind, hit into the bunker on each side of the fairway on the 527-yard closing hole and had to lay up.

Westwood's 15-foot birdie putt never had a chance, losing speed and turning away. He shot 73.

From an unpredictable lie in the right rough, Woods gouged a wedge out to 12 feet right of the pin. He started to backpedal as the putt neared the hole, paused to make sure it was in, then clenched and pumped both fists toward him with his head to the sky.

"Unbelievable. I knew he'd make it," Mediate said as he watched from a scoring room.

Woods shot 73 and will be in a playoff for the third time in a major, this one 18 holes of stroke play on Monday.

The 50,000 fans at Torrey Pines, who thought they had seen it all during a most remarkable week, now get a little bit more.

It will be the first playoff at the U.S. Open—the only major that goes 18 holes of overtime—since Retief Goosen defeated Mark Brooks at Southern Hills in 2001.

And it was made possible by Woods, among the greatest clutch putters of all time, making a putt that simply couldn't miss.

AP

Rocco Mediate, left, shakes hands with Tiger Woods after both players finished the fourth round of the US Open championship with a one-under-par for the tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Sunday, June 15, 2008 in San Diego.

"A little wobbly down there," he said of the poa greens, a grass that gets bumpier in the afternoon sun. "I played probably 2 1/2 holes outside right. Just take it back and make a pure stroke, because once it starts slowing down there ... you don't know what's going to happen. All I could control is my stroke."

The birdie concluded a week in which Woods played the first two rounds with Phil Mickelson, shot 30 on his back nine Friday to get into contention, took the 54-hole lead Saturday with two eagle putts totaling 100 feet, and wobbled on a surgically repaired knee that often turned a megawatt smile into a painful grimace.

The knee, which sidelined him from the Masters until this week, didn't seem to bother him as much Sunday—certainly not when he launched into the wildest celebration of the week.

"I took some things to kind of relieve that," Woods said of the soreness.

Adrenaline maybe?

"Uh, that helps, too," he said.

Mediate made only one bogey over the final 13 holes, seizing on his best—and perhaps only—chance to win a major. He grazed the edge of the cup on a 15-foot birdie try at the 17th and hit a wedge too strong on the 18th, both pars keeping Woods in the game.

Monday will not be the first time they have tussled.

Mediate played with a 23-year-old Woods in the final round of the Phoenix Open in 1999, where he led by six shots and held on to win by three. It was one of his five PGA Tour victories.

"Battle royale," Mediate said of what awaits. "The thing that is most amazing is the man I'm going to play tomorrow has won 13 of these. It's amazing how much it takes. I gave all I had today and I can't complain."

Woods has never lost a major when he had at least a share of the 54-hole lead, and he came close to throwing this one away on a series of questionable decisions and poor shots.

He tried to reach the 13th green in two from 291 yards when a birdie was not necessary, then pulled it into a hazard and walked off with bogey to slip one shot behind Mediate, who had birdied the 14th ahead of him.

Woods then laid up with an iron on the 14th, where the tees were moved up to make it play only 267 yards, hit a sand wedge 20 feet beyond the hole and made par. And two shots into the right rough on the 15th led to a bogey that put him one shot behind.

Standing over an all-or-nothing putt on the last hole, Woods again delivered.

It was reminiscent of the 2000 PGA Championship at Valhalla, where he made a six-foot birdie putt that broke both ways to get into a playoff against Bob May, the critical piece on his way to four straight majors.

"It feels very similar to what Valhalla felt like," Woods said. "If I didn't make that putt, I don't get to continue to keep playing. At best, I gave myself a chance to win the tournament tomorrow. And that's all I can ask for."

Westwood, trying to become the first European in 38 years to win the U.S. Open, fell one stroke short. He had a one-shot lead at the turn and fought to stay in the game after consecutive bogeys early on the back nine.

"It's sickening not to be in the playoff tomorrow," he said. "But all in all, I played pretty good all week. And if somebody said, 'You're going to have a chance for a playoff on Monday,' then I would have probably taken that at the start of the week. I think I've proved to myself and a few others that I think there is a major championship in me."

Woods even being in contention on the back looked uncertain the way he started.

In the final group for the sixth time in the last eight majors, this one was packed with curiosity over the state of his knee, and it showed. Fans stood 25 rows deep behind the tee, and those in the top row of the bleachers on the 18th hole turned to watch. Among those in the crowd was his swing coach, Hank Haney, who pleaded as Woods settled over the tee shot, "C'mon, buddy."

He snap-hooked the tee shot over the gallery, and so began another journey to double bogey—his second shot was left and hit a tree, his third shot clipped another tree and stayed in thick rough, his fourth didn't reach the green, and he got up-and-down for a 6.

That put him 7-over for the week on his opening hole, and was his third double bogey on No. 1.

After a three-putt bogey—his fourth of the week—on No. 2, he didn't make another mistake until the 13th.

Woods won that three-hole playoff at Valhalla by one shot, and he won the 2005 Masters in a sudden-death playoff with an 8-iron into 15 feet on the first extra hole to beat Chris DiMarco.

This one is a full round on a wounded knee against a 45-year-old with a back so creaky he once contemplated retirement. Now, Mediate feels as though he has nothing to lose.

"I don't know how you make odds on that," Mediate said. "Who knew I would be here playing against him tomorrow?"

Then he noticed Woods standing at the door of the interview room.

"And you better watch yourself tomorrow, pal," Mediate said playfully. "See, he's a little nervous right now."

Woods joined the laughter. Nervous? Probably not. But definitely thrilled to still be playing.

Worker dies at Cowboys stadium construction site

DALLAS (AP)—An electrician working at the new Dallas Cowboys stadium died Saturday when he touched a high-voltage line, the second serious accident at the construction site in less than a week.

The man was standing on a ladder and performing an electrical test when he touched the power line, said Neal Strasser, a battalion chief with the Arlington Fire Department.

The man became wedged between the ladder and the stadium wall. A co-worker carried him to the ground and tried to revive him, Strasser said.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Web site identified the man as Timothy Mackinnon, 45, of Arlington. He worked for JMEG Electric, a subcontractor hired by the stadium's general contractor, Manhattan Construction.

The accident happened around 11 a.m. The fire department received an emergency call at 11:05 a.m. and arrived within five minutes, but revival attempts at the scene were unsuccessful. Mackinnon was pronounced dead at Arlington Memorial Hospital.

"The workers were visibly upset," Strasser said.

Work on the stadium in suburban Arlington stopped within an hour of the accident, and the job site will remain closed Sunday, Cowboys spokesman Brett Daniels said.

JMEG didn't immediately respond to a phone message left by The Associated Press. In a statement from Manhattan Construction, the company described Mackinnon as a journeyman electrician and said its employees were "deeply saddened."

"Our focus right now is with the family and friends of this individual as well as on the investigation of the incident," the statement said.

The cause of the accident is unknown, but the construction companies are cooperating with investigations being conducted by police and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, according to a statement from Manhattan that was released by the Cowboys.

The death comes two days after a crane accident at the construction site sent three workers to the hospital. Two were treated and released, while the third, Wesley Harlow, was in serious condition Saturday, said a spokeswoman at Baylor University Medical Center.

OSHA officials were at the site Saturday at the time of the incident, still investigating the Thursday crane accident, Daniels said.

"They were able to immediately start checking things out," Daniels said. "But the actual cause is still to be determined."

There have been at least two other accidents at the stadium site that left workers hospitalized.

In August, a crane hook hit a worker in the back. He was sent to the hospital and released the next day. In January 2007, a stadium worker fell 20 feet through a hole between stadium levels. He was hospitalized in critical condition but recovered and later returned to work.

The more than $1 billion retractable-roof stadium has been under construction for two years and is scheduled to open for the 2009 season and host the 2011 Super Bowl. The 80,000-seat stadium is expected to be the world's largest column-free room, with retractable panels.

Lakers still alive, beat Celtics 103-98 in Game 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pack up the championship trophy and book a flight back to Boston, the NBA finals aren't over yet.

The Los Angeles Lakers are headed East to try a historic comeback of their own.

Kobe Bryant scored 25 points, including a decisive dunk in the final minute—and Lamar Odom added 20 as the Lakers, playing with pride on their star-studded stage, prevented the Celtics from winning a 17th title with a 103-98 win in Game 5 on Sunday night to close to 3-2 in this restored rivalry.

"We didn't want to see any champagne popping," Odom said. "It wasn't easy. I wouldn't expect it to be."

No team has overcome a 3-1 deficit in the finals to win a title. The first 28 failed, and now the Lakers, who blew a 24-point lead and lost Game 4 and nearly squandered a 19-point lead in Game 5, have a chance to do something extraordinary.

They'll have to win on the Celtics' parquet floor Tuesday night to force a winner-take-all Game 7, where anything is possible.

Especially with Bryant, the game's best player, on hand.

"We've won on the road before," Bryant said. "We've played in tough environments before."

But the league's MVP and uberforce, who spent much of last summer grumbling to Lakers management for help to get him a fourth championship ring, didn't have to fly a solo mission to extend L.A.'s season for at least another game.

Pau Gasol had 19 points and 13 rebounds, Odom had 11 rebounds and four blocks and Derek Fisher added 15 points.

"We were aggressive. We played hard," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "Not smart all the time, but we played hard."

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 38 points, Kevin Garnett added 13 points and 14 rebounds, and Ray Allen had 16 points. But Boston's Big Three couldn't close their first chance at winning it all, and now will get two cracks at home to finish the job.

"Guys are down and upset because they thought they could have, they thought they should have," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "We played all year to have home court."

After scoring 15 points in the first quarter, Bryant went cold from the floor and finished just 8-of-21. But he made a big steal, poking the ball away from Paul Pierce and streaking down to deliver a two-handed dunk with 37.4 seconds left.

"I just was kind of reading the play and I was able to get my hands on the ball and get out and get a dunk," Bryant said.

The Celtics called a timeout, Jack Nicholson jumped to his feet and the scoreboard in Staples Center flashed: Not In Our House!

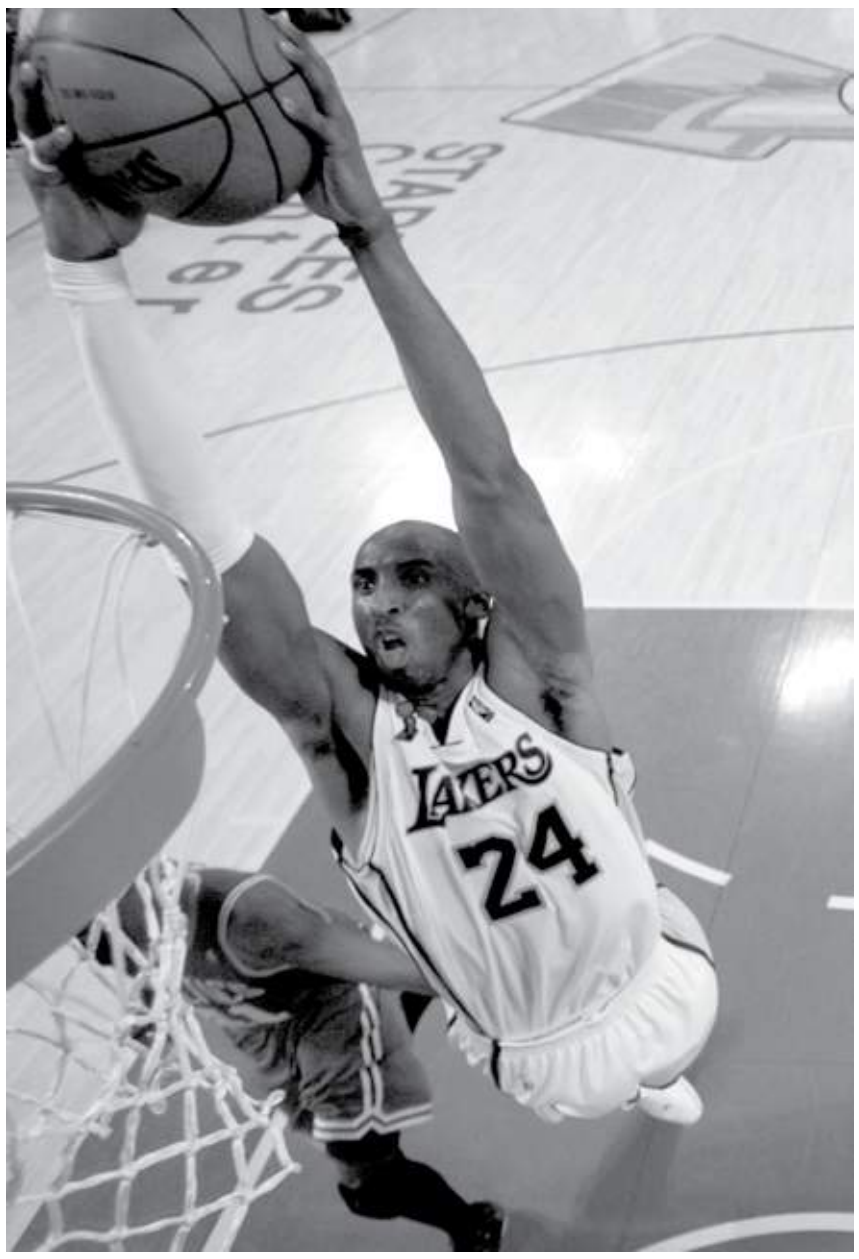
When the final horn sounded, purple and gold streamers fell from the ceiling and the public address announcer said, "Game 6 will be Tuesday night in Boston. This is not over yet."

On Saturday, Bryant had said "this is far from over," and he could be right.

Accused of being selfish and too tough on his not-as-talented teammates, Bryant can bow to the other Lakers for sending the series back across country.

Gasol, the 7-foot Spanish center criticized for being pillowy soft, didn't back down underneath and was able to get Garnett into foul trouble.

But just as they did in Game 4, when they staged the biggest comeback in finals history, the Celtics pushed the Lakers to the brink of summer with another rally. This one fell a little short, but the outcome was still in doubt when Pierce, who grew up hating Boston like every other kid from L.A., made two free throws with 1:14 remaining to get the Celtics to 97-95.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) dunks late in the fourth quarter of Game 5 of the NBA basketball finals against the Boston Celtics Sunday, June 15, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Fisher then missed a jumper and the Celtics appeared to be in business when Pierce fought off two Lakers for a rebound. But as he dribbled toward the basket, Bryant reached around and knocked the ball away to Odom, who then fed Bryant for his slam.

Still, the Celtics wouldn't go away.

After Bryant missed one of two free throws with 16 seconds left, Eddie House nailed a 3-pointer to make it 101-98 with 14 seconds left. House then nearly stole the ensuing inbounds pass, but Bryant, sprawled out on the floor, got the ball to Fisher, who drew a desperation foul.

Fisher then made two free throws and stole Boston's last pass as Lakers fans, stunned to silence a few nights ago, left the building dreaming of seeing another improbable comeback.

This is the 11th meeting—and first since 1987—between the league's two most storied franchises, and it could be headed for a crescendo befitting the matchups between Bird and Magic, McHale and Abdul-Jabbar, and Russell and West.

Before the game, Lakers coach Jackson said the only way for his team to approach a close-out game was to keep playing.

"A lot of things can happen," he said. "We're young enough and dumb enough to be able to do this."

With Bryant, they have the smarts and skills to get it done.

He made four 3-pointers in the first eight minutes and his free throw gave the Lakers a 25-15 lead. The Celtics were forced to extend their defense, and Bryant made them pay when he faked a long-range shot and fired a pass underneath to Vladimir Radmanovic to make it 29-15.

Odom, a model of inconsistency in the series, drove the lane for a hoop to put the Lakers ahead by 16, and Gasol's bucket in the final second made the overhead scoreboard read: Lakers 39, Celtics 22.

Most teams might panic. Not the Celtics. They were in a bigger hole—21 points—after the first quarter in Game 4 when they staged their epic rally.

And, sure enough, back Boston came.

When Sasha Vujacic scored, the Lakers' lead bulged to 19 and the oh-so-trendy L.A. faithful were carrying on like a rowdy East coast crowd. That's when the Celtics began chipping away as Pierce scored six points and Allen, Tony not Ray, scored two quick baskets.

The Celtics' rally seemed short-lived when Garnett picked up his third personal, but with the Lakers unable to get anything to drop, Pierce made a layup and 3 to make it 43-39 before Odom finally ended Los Angeles nearly six-minute scoring drought.

The Lakers briefly regrouped but P.J. Brown scored on a putback and Pierce hit another 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left as the Celtics closed to 55-52 at half and bounded toward their locker just 24 minutes from a title.

Odom, Gasol do inside job on Celtics in Game 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lamar Odom and Pau Gasol pulled disappearing acts after halftime in the first four games of the NBA finals, deferring to Lakers star Kobe Bryant.

The Los Angeles big men stood tall when Bryant struggled offensively after the first quarter in Game 5, and with that, the Lakers are going back to Boston.

Odom had 20 points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots, Gasol added 19 points, 13 rebounds and six assists, and the Lakers beat the Celtics 103-98 Sunday night to trim Boston's lead to 3-2.

Game 6 will be played Tuesday night. Should the Lakers win, a seventh and deciding game will be Thursday night.

Odom, who had four points and two rebounds in the second half of the disastrous Game 4, had nine points and four rebounds after halftime of this game.

Gasol had 10 points and six rebounds in the second half, and made the go-ahead basket with 4:12 remaining. Odom added a pair of foul shots less than a minute later, but he wasn't finished.

With the Lakers leading 97-95, Bryant poked the ball away from Paul Pierce, Odom got it and fed Bryant for a breakaway dunk that gave Los Angeles a four-point lead with 37.4 seconds left.

On Boston's next possession, Odom rebounded a missed follow shot by Kevin Garnett, and the Lakers were home free.

"They both did a good job on the boards," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

After being outrebounded by an average of 3.5 per game previously, the Lakers had a 40-37 advantage on the boards in this game thanks mainly to their two big men.

And both had good shooting nights—Odom went 8-for-10 while Gasol was 6-for-10.

Bryant scored only 10 of his 25 points after the first quarter, putting the onus on his teammates. Gasol and Odom, along with Derek Fisher (15 points) and Jordan Farmar (11 points) were up to the challenge.

Odom's first 3-pointer of the finals and third in 20 playoff games gave the Lakers an 84-72 lead with 11:05 remaining, and it was 88-74 less than 2 minutes later before the Celtics battled back to tie it at 90.

Bryant said following the debacle of Thursday night, when the Lakers blew a 24-point lead before losing 97-91, that he wasn't thinking about beating the Celtics three straight times, as the Lakers must do, but focusing on Game 5 only.

Mission accomplished.

Now, the Lakers have to win twice in Boston, where the Celtics are 12-1 in the postseason. The only thing that matters now is Game 6.

"We're young enough and dumb enough to be able to do this," Jackson said before the game, saying his team's best chance was to "be in the present, don't think about anything else that's going on."

None of the 28 teams who have fallen behind 3-1 in the finals have come back to win the championship.

Lakers center Chris Mihm, limited to 23 games by injuries this season, made his first appearance of the playoffs to begin the second quarter and played 3 minutes. His lone shot was an air ball and he committed two fouls and a turnover.

NBA BRIEFS

Celtics C Perkins out for Game 5 of NBA finals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Boston Celtics center Kendrick Perkins confirmed that he would not play in Game 5 of the NBA finals on Sunday night against the Los Angeles Lakers because of a strained left shoulder. Leon Powe took Perkins' place in the starting lineup. It was the first playoff start of Powe's career. "I know I'm not ready to go," Perkins said in the visitor's locker room at Staples Center, wearing street clothes while the rest of his teammates got in uniform for the potential clincher. "If we have a Game 6, I'm sure I'll be ready to go. But I hope we close it out." The Celtics took a 3-1 lead into the fifth game of the best-of-seven series. Game 6 would be in Boston on Tuesday night, if necessary. Celtics coach Doc Rivers said it was doubtful Perkins would be able to play then. "Obviously, it's not a great injury to have," he said. A victory on Sunday would end the season with Perkins on the bench. "I'll be cool with that," he said. Perkins dislocated his left shoulder in 2006 and missed three games, but needed surgery after the season to repair it. Asked on Sunday if he was always in pain or just when he moved it, Perkins said, "Any moment, it's painful." "It seemed like it was not getting better that quickly," he said. "When you've been playing this long, those are the type of injuries that kind of hop up," Brown said, "you know, little nagging, freakish things that both teams have to deal with."

Dick Bavetta officiates Game 5 of NBA finals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dick Bavetta, the referee who worked one of the games Tim Donaghy alleged was rigged, officiated Game 5 of the NBA finals on Sunday night. Bavetta worked Game 6 of the Western Conference finals, when the Los Angeles Lakers used a huge free-throw advantage in the fourth quarter to beat the Sacramento Kings and even a series they eventually won. Donaghy, who has pleaded guilty to betting on games he officiated and taking cash payments from gamblers, alleged in a court filing this week that the NBA had two "company men" work that game and make calls that would help the Lakers win and set up a Game 7. NBA commissioner David Stern later confirmed that the federal investigation into Donaghy included questions about Bavetta. NBA spokesman Tim Frank said the league did not consider pulling Bavetta, in his 33rd season as an NBA referee, off the game in light of this week's events. Bavetta has worked more than 20 NBA finals games. Scott Foster and Ken Mauer worked with Bavetta on Sunday, when the Boston Celtics hoped to clinch the series. Bavetta and Foster also were part of the Game 1 crew in Boston.

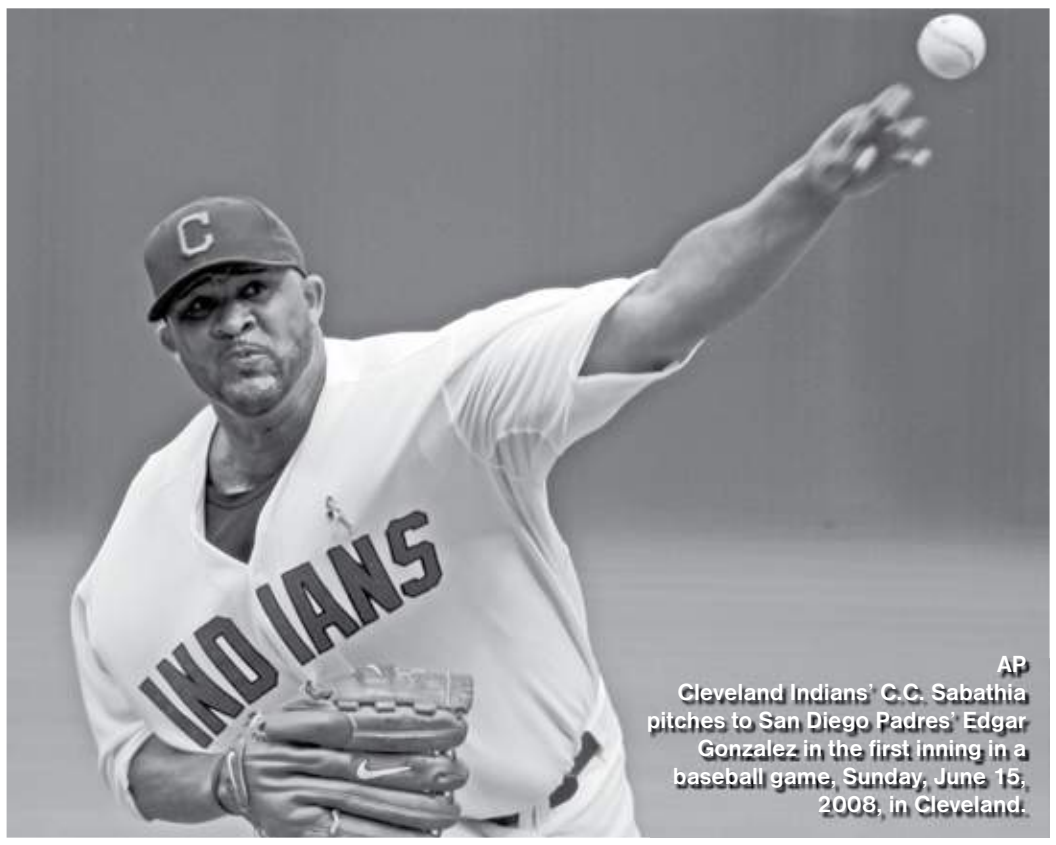
Indians' Sabathia defeats Padres' Maddux

CLEVELAND (AP)—C.C. Sabathia outpitched Greg Maddux in a matchup of former pitchers of the year, and the Cleveland Indians defeated the San Diego Padres 7-3 in Major League Baseball interleague play on Sunday.

Ben Francisco hit a three-run homer and Grady Sizemore a solo shot, his ninth homer in 16 games, as Cleveland took two of three in the series.

Sabathia (5-8) struck out 10 and allowed three runs and six hits over eight innings. His 14th game of double-digit strikeouts helped him pass Charles Nagy for fifth place in Indians history with 1,239.

Maddux (3-5) fell to 0-2 in seven starts since May 10, when he became the ninth pitcher to win 350 games. The 42-year-old didn't issue a walk for the seventh time in 15 starts this season, but wasn't as sharp as usual. The four-time Cy Young winner hit a batter, threw a wild pitch, and even made an uncharacteristic error that led to three unearned runs.



AP
Cleveland Indians' C.C. Sabathia pitches to San Diego Padres' Edgar Gonzalez in the first inning in a baseball game, Sunday, June 15, 2008, in Cleveland.

Yankees 13, Astros 0

At Houston, Wang Chien-ming pitched five scoreless innings before spraining his right foot running the bases, and Alex Rodriguez hit a three-run homer in New York's rout of Houston.

Wang (8-2) pulled up as he rounded third on Derek Jeter's two-run single during the Yankees' eight-run sixth inning. He hopped the rest of the way home and was helped off the field. He will undergo tests on Monday.

Rodriguez hit his 185th homer as a Yankee later in the New York sixth, tying Paul O'Neill for 16th on the franchise's all-time list. Rodriguez reached 1,540 RBIs on the home run, passing Joe DiMaggio and tying Willie Stargell for 40th all-time.

Red Sox 9, Reds 0

At Cincinnati, Coco Crisp kept Boston's depleted lineup rolling by driving in four runs, and Jacoby Ellsbury homered and stole two more bases for a Red Sox rookie record in a victory over Cincinnati.

J.D. Drew, Ellsbury and Crisp also connected off Homer Bailey (0-3), who has lost each of his three starts this season.

Josh Beckett (7-4), in his first career victory over the Reds, allowed six hits—three by Joey Votto—in seven innings.

Rockies 5, White Sox 3

At C hicago, Brad Hawpe hit a go-ahead home run, Aaron Cook earned his career-high 10th win and Colorado hung on to beat Chicago.

The White Sox loaded the bases against Brian Fuentes in the ninth on Juan Uribe's leadoff single and two two-out walks. With two outs, Joe Crede hit a pop fly to left that Matt Holliday nearly dropped as he avoided colliding with shortstop Carlos Quintanilla. Holliday made the barehanded catch.

Hawpe's solo drive off Jose Contreras (6-5) in the sixth put Colorado ahead 4-3 after Jermaine Dye tied it with a two-run shot in the fifth.

Cubs 7, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Ted Lilly allowed one hit over six scoreless innings, Derrek Lee drove in three runs and Aramis Ramirez homered for Chicago.

Lilly (7-5) won for the sixth time in seven decisions dating to May 3 and has a 3.81 ERA over that span. He struggled with his control but kept wiggling out of jams.

Chicago blew open the game with four runs in the seventh, most of the damage coming off Toronto starter Jesse Litsch. He was charged with five runs and eight hits over 6 1-3 innings, falling to 7-3 on the season.°Ë

Rangers 8, Mets 7, 1st game; Mets 4, Rangers 2, 2nd game

At New York, Pedro Martinez pitched six sharp innings, pinch-hitter Robinson Cancel got his first major league hit in nearly nine years and New York salvaged a split of a doubleheader.

Billy Wagner ended his skid of three straight blown saves and David Wright had three hits for his first multihit game in two weeks for the Mets. Carlos Beltran followed up a homer and two RBIs in the opener with a run-scoring single as New York took two of three from Texas, perhaps giving Mets manager Willie Randolph a reprieve from being fired.

Kevin Millwood (5-3) held the Mets to five hits over six innings to earn his first road win since last Father's Day in the first game. John Maine (6-5) allowed five runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Martinez (2-0) was making his first start at Shea Stadium since Sept. 27 and the fans showed him their love, chanting "We want Pedro!" when he was removed for Cancel with the bases loaded in the sixth. Mets fans mercilessly booed the decision as Cancel walked to the plate for his second at-bat this season.

Tigers 5, Dodgers 4

At Detroit, Nate Robertson pitched six shutout innings, Marcus Thames and Brandon Inge hit back-to-back homers and Detroit won its sixth straight.

Robertson (5-6) allowed four hits and walked none. Carlos Guillen had three hits and an RBI for Detroit, which finished with 14 hits.

The Dodgers scored four runs in the ninth inning but Todd Jones got Juan Pierre to fly out to center with a runner on second. Russell Martin hit a two-run homer and Jeff Kent had an RBI single for Los Angeles, which has lost five straight.

Marlins 9, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Ricky Nolasco came within one out of the first complete game of his career, and Mike Jacobs and Wes Helms hit three-run homers to power Florida.

Nolasco (7-4) allowed three runs and six hits, and struck out a career-high 12 and walked one.

Jacobs and Helms each homered off Edwin Jackson (4-6), who made his last start before he's expected to begin a five-game suspension for his part in a bench-clearing brawl on June 5.

Brewers 4, Twins 2

At Milwaukee, Mike Cameron hit a two-run homer, Seth McClung scattered four hits and Milwaukee snapped a six-game losing streak in interleague play dating to last season.

Relievers Brian Shouse, Guillermo Mota and Salomon Torres, who picked up his eighth save, each pitched a hitless inning after the bullpen gave up 13 runs the last two games.

Cameron had been 6-for-45 before his at-bat in the sixth, when he hit a fastball from Twins starter Scott Baker (2-2) into the Brewers bullpen for a 3-2 lead.

Pirates 5, Orioles 4, 10 innings

At Baltimore, Adam LaRoche singled in the tiebreaking run off George Sherrill in the 10th inning, and Pittsburgh beat Baltimore to end a run of seven straight interleague defeats.

Brian Roberts hit a tying homer for Baltimore in the ninth, but the Orioles couldn't complete a three-game sweep during a series in which they repeatedly fought from behind.

Matt Capps (1-2) blew his third save in four games but got the win.

Athletics 5, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Eric Chavez had three hits and two RBIs to help Oakland complete its second consecutive sweep of San Francisco.

Dana Eveland (5-5) gave up a run and six hits in 6 2-3 innings for the A's, who have won six straight over the Giants. The left-hander walked three and struck out five in his first road win since April 25.

The Giants' Kevin Correia (1-4) was activated from the disabled list to make his first start since getting only one out on April 26 against Cincinnati. He went 5 1-3 innings, allowing five runs and seven hits. He walked two and struck out four.

Royals 8, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, David DeJesus hit his first career grand slam and had a career-high five RBIs, helping Kansas City win for the second time in three games against Arizona.

Gil Meche (4-8) went 7 1-3 innings for his first victory since May 15, a span of six starts. He allowed three runs on four hits, striking out a season-high 10 and walking one.

Micah Owings (6-5) went 5 1-3 innings, allowing a season-high seven runs and eight hits. He has allowed 21 earned runs in 19 innings over his last four starts.

Nationals 6, Mariners 2

At Seattle, rookie Kory Casto's pinch-hit, three-run homer off the foul pole broke an eighth inning tie and led Washington past Seattle.

The Nationals swept their first three-game series since September and handed the Mariners their seventh consecutive home loss, their longest since eight straight home defeats in 1996.

Casto, who had been 0-for-14 in his previous five games, hit his first career homer off reliever Mark Lowe (1-3).

Angels 2, Braves 0

At Anaheim, California, Casey Kotchman homered, Joe Saunders pitched seven scoreless innings and Los Angeles avoided a sweep by beating Atlanta.

Saunders held the Braves to just six hits and Kotchman drove in both runs with his home run for Los Angeles, which won despite scoring four runs or fewer for the 14th straight game.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	28	.611	–
Tampa Bay	40	29	.580	2 1/2
New York	37	33	.529	6
Baltimore	34	34	.500	8
Toronto	35	36	.493	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	38	31	.551	–
Minnesota	34	36	.486	4 1/2
Cleveland	33	37	.471	5 1/2
Detroit	32	37	.464	6
Kansas City	28	42	.400	10 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	42	28	.600	–
Oakland	38	31	.551	3 1/2
Texas	35	36	.493	7 1/2
Seattle	24	45	.348	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	41	30	.577	–
Florida	37	32	.536	3
Atlanta	34	36	.486	6 1/2
New York	33	35	.485	6 1/2
Washington	29	42	.408	12

Central Division

Chicago	45	25	.643	–
St. Louis	42	29	.592	3 1/2
Milwaukee	36	33	.522	8 1/2
Pittsburgh	34	36	.486	11
Houston	33	37	.471	12
Cincinnati	33	38	.465	12 1/2

West Division

Arizona	37	33	.529	–
Los Angeles	31	38	.449	5 1/2
San Diego	31	40	.437	6 1/2
San Francisco	30	40	.429	7
Colorado	28	41	.406	8 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 5, L.A. Dodgers 4
Cleveland 7, San Diego 3
Chicago Cubs 7, Toronto 4
Texas 8, N.Y. Mets 7, 1st game
N.Y. Mets 4, Texas 2, 2nd game
Boston 9, Cincinnati 0
Pittsburgh 5, Baltimore 4, 10 innings
Florida 9, Tampa Bay 3
Milwaukee 4, Minnesota 2
N.Y. Yankees 13, Houston 0
Colorado 5, Chicago White Sox 3
St. Louis 7, Philadelphia 6, 10 innings
Oakland 5, San Francisco 3
Washington 6, Seattle 2
Kansas City 8, Arizona 3
L.A. Angels 2, Atlanta 0

U.S. OPEN SCORES

SAN DIEGO (AP)–Scores Sunday in the U.S. Open on Torrey Pines' 7,643-yard, par-71 South Course (a-amateur):

Fourth Round

Rocco Mediate	69-71-72-71	283
Tiger Woods	72-68-70-73	283
Lee Westwood	70-71-70-73	284
Robert Karlsson	70-70-75-71	286
D.J. Trahan	72-69-73-72	286
Carl Pettersson	71-71-77-68	287
John Merrick	73-72-71-71	287
Miguel Angel Jimenez	75-66-74-72	287
Heath Slocum	75-74-74-65	288
Eric Axley	69-79-71-69	288
Brandt Snedeker	76-73-68-71	288
Camilo Villegas	73-71-71-73	288
Geoff Ogilvy	69-73-72-74	288
Stewart Cink	72-73-77-67	289
Retief Goosen	76-69-77-67	289
Rod Pampling	74-70-75-70	289
Ernie Els	70-72-74-73	289
Phil Mickelson	71-75-76-68	290
Chad Campbell	77-72-71-70	290
Ryuji Imada	74-75-70-71	290
Brandt Jobe	73-75-69-73	290
Sergio Garcia	76-70-70-74	290
Mike Weir	73-74-69-74	290
Robert Allenby	70-72-73-75	290
Hunter Mahan	72-74-69-75	290
Adam Scott	73-73-75-70	291
Boo Weekley	73-76-70-72	291
Anthony Kim	74-75-70-xx	291
Bart Bryant	75-70-78-69	292
a-Mike Thompson	74-73-73-72	292
Steve Stricker	73-76-71-72	292
Patrick Sheehan	71-74-74-73	292
Jeff Quinney	79-70-70-73	292
Scott Verplank	72-72-74-74	292
Aaron Baddeley	74-73-71-74	292
Pat Perez	75-73-75-70	293
Daniel Chopra	73-75-75-70	293
Padraig Harrington	78-67-77-71	293
Jon Mills	72-75-75-71	293
Justin Leonard	75-72-75-71	293
Andres Romero	71-73-77-72	293
Todd Hamilton	74-74-73-72	293
Joe Ogilvie	71-76-73-73	293
Rob Dinwiddie	73-71-75-74	293
Stuart Appleby	69-70-79-75	293
Jim Furyk	74-71-73-75	293
Oliver Wilson	72-71-74-76	293
Jarrod Lyle	75-74-74-71	294
John Rollins	75-68-79-72	294
Matt Kuchar	73-73-76-72	294
Dustin Johnson	74-72-75-73	294
Tim Clark	73-72-74-75	294
Ben Crane	75-72-77-71	295
Soren Hansen	78-70-76-71	295
Kevin Streelman	68-77-78-72	295
Martin Kaymer	75-70-73-77	295
Davis Love III	72-69-76-78	295
Stephen Ames	74-74-77-71	296
Rory Sabbatini	73-72-75-76	296
Nick Watney	73-75-77-72	297
a-Rickie Fowler	70-79-76-72	297
Alastair Forsyth	76-73-74-74	297
Brett Quigley	73-72-77-75	297
David Toms	76-72-72-77	297
John Mallinger	73-75-78-72	298
Vijay Singh	71-78-76-73	298
Paul Casey	79-70-76-73	298
Trevor Immelman	75-73-72-78	298
a-Derek Fathauer	73-73-78-75	299
D.A. Points	74-71-77-77	299
Andrew Dresser	76-73-79-72	300
Andrew Svoboda	77-71-74-78	300
Woody Austin	72-72-77-79	300
Jesper Parnevik	77-72-77-75	301
Ian Leggatt	72-76-76-77	301
Justin Hicks	68-80-75-78	301
Ross McGowan	76-72-78-77	303
Rich Beem	74-74-80-76	304
Chris Kirk	75-74-78-77	304
Luke Donald	71-71-77	WD

Note: Mediate and Woods will play an 18-hole playoff on Monday

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

59 take part in Red Cross lessons

MARK RABAGO
Former national swimmer Tamiko Winkfield is hard at work during Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swimming lessons Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan south pool.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A total of 59 took part in Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swimming lessons which kicked off last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan south pool.

Tsunami Saipan manager Yuko Kimura said the number of participants was a great follow-up to the 56 that took part in the Red Cross lessons in November 2007 and the 69 that signed up only last April.

She said unlike previous clinics; however, last Saturday's saw a healthy number of Level 2-3 swimmers.

"It's means that they have improved their skills since last clinic. Tsunami Saipan also encourages the public to join the clinic to improve their swimming skills, learn about water safety, and if possible join the Tsunami Saipan swimming team," she said.

Kimura said the goal is to certify as many 7 and-8-years-olds to Level 3 in the American Red Cross Program.

She said the participants not only included children but grownups who want to brush up on their swimming techniques.

One such adult, according to Kimura, is Juanita Fajardo, who along with sons Zachary and Adam took part in the clinic.

Fajardo said she enrolled in the Red Cross lessons to encourage her children, nephews, and nieces to take up swimming.

Kimura, meanwhile, said that at four years and 10 months old, Maxine Rabago, is the clinic's youngest participant.

The Tsunami Saipan manager said it was her second time to attend the clinic but what was amazing was she tried to float herself several times.

Lending their expertise in the Red Cross clinic last weekend were instructors from Tsunami Saipan led by its president Stan Good, former national swimmers Tamiko Winkfield and Mike Villagomez, current Tsunami Saipan swimmers Marystar Welch, Shin Kimura, Kensuke Kimura, Mina Minami, Daniel Villegas, and Fumika Umeda, as well as Tsunami Saipan's coach Hiro Kimura, assistant coach Val Welch and her daughter Ashley, and Villagomez's daughter, Keana.

The ARC lessons will continue through the succeeding Saturdays of the month plus the first Saturday of the next month, July 5, at the Garapan landmark. All lessons will be from 10am to 11am.

MARK RABAGO
Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good also lent his expertise by teaching level 2 participants in last weekend's Red Cross clinic.

FMI playoffs continue tonight

The playoff of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League returns this evening at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with two games slated in the open division.

According to league coordinator Boy Garcia, the first game will have No. 2 Ol'Aces taking on No. 7 Price Costco, while the second match will have No. 3 GEC Pawnshop squaring off against No. 4 SMF Seabridge.

True to its name, Advance X-Terminators already advanced to the second round of the playoffs after winning the open division pennant with a 7-1 win-loss mark. Ol'Aces actually tied Advance but yielded the top spot because it lost to the team in the elimination round.

Star Water and MIGS failed to reach the playoffs after registering lowly cards of 1-7 and 0-8, respectively, in the elimination round.

Taga Warriors and Tasi Tours Giants moved on to the next round of their respective divisions as the playoffs of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League finally got going last Thursday night at the Ada Gym.

In the curtain raiser, Taga Warriors bucked a slow start to beat CTSI, 72-69, in the masters division. Tasi Tours, meanwhile, used its height advantage to the hilt in exacting a 99-90 loss to Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue House in nightcap in the open division.

The other masters game waiting on the wings is the GEC Pawnshop-Bank of Saipan tussle slated next play date. Fixers was eliminated after finishing regular season with a 1-7 record. ***(Mark Rabago)***

JUNIOR

From Page 28

succumbed to Guam's William Koo, 0-6, 2-6.

Camacho and Chang, meanwhile, defeated Guam's Kento Oikawa, 6-0, 6-0, and FSM's Chris Yamada, 6-0, 6-0, respectively.

Rafael Jones also has two wins tucked under his belt in Pool A of the boys' 13. He first beat teammate Dan Camacho, 6-2, 6-3, before upending Jake Panuelo of FSM, 6-1, 6-0. Camacho then bounced back from the loss to Jones by outlasting Jared Lee of Guam, 6-4, 6-4.

In Pool B, Jake Lee mirrored Jones' success with victories over Kaito Fuji of Palau (7-5, 6-4) and Jericho Akinaga of FSM (6-3, 6-1).

In the girls' 18, top seed Mayuko Arriola skunked Sophie Finnen of FSM, 6-0, 6-0 in Pool A, while Dina Jones has beaten teammate Theecel Minor, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), and FSM's Samantha Arthur, 6-3, 6-4, in Pool B. Minor also lost to top seed Alea Dugan of Guam, 0-6, 0-6.

Theecel's younger sister, Thea, is sure making waves in the girls' 13 as attested by her shutout wins over teammate Jeane Bracken and Ayana Rengiil of Palau in Pool A. Bracken also lost to Ashley Nadler of Guam, 1-6, 4-6.

In Pool B, Amy Arenovski has a 1-1 record after a win over Summer Morrison of Guam (6-1, 6-0) and a close loss to Andrea Lai of Guam, 0-6, 6-4, 3-6.

The Top 3 finishers in the boys' and girls 18-and-under and boys' and girls' 13-and-under advance to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji, next month.

The islands' top junior player, Ji Hoon Heo, already has an automatic entry on the North Pacific Team this year and so will not play the NPQ, but instead play in Fiji then in New Caledonia for an ITF event.

THREE

From Page 28

bowlers" Richard Leong (1,117) and Robert Talavera (1,112) in the eliminations, which was eventually won by the latter with a score of 178. Leong came away with a 132 and Talavera a 138.

The Department of Public Safety officer then outlasted Pangelinan in the semifinals, 193-175, to advance to the championship against Barja.

In the finals, Manacop was no match against a fresh Barja as the Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager won Class A in a score of 202-183.

The win was worth $350 for Barja, while Manacop and Pangelinan earned $300 and $200, respectively.

Hernandez, for his part, topped Class B but not after getting a scare from up-and-coming youth bowler Raphael Zapanta.

Zapanta upset Hernandez in the first game of the finals, 176-145, but the former came back in the second game, 182-143, to secure the championship.

Zapanta defeated Ferdee Generoso and lady kegler Yho Villavicencio in the eliminations by knocking down 181 pins, while Generoso and Villavicencio bowed out with rolls of 159 and 143, respectively.

The Chacha Ocenview Junior High School student then routed Eric Rabang in the semis, 214-126, but Zapanta's run ended when Hernandez took the second game in the Class B finals.

Hernandez pocketed $250 for the win, while Zapanta earned $200 for finishing second. Rabang settled for the $150 third place purse.

In Class C, Echavez clinched the title after beating Diana Chong in the second game of the championship, 158-135.

Chong earlier got the better of Rene Cariaso and Mel Regis in the eliminations and then advanced to the finals with a 156-136 win over Carol McKenzie. She was halfway to the title when she upended Echavez in the first game, 160-127, but lost steam in the second game to yield the championship.

Echavez got $150 for winning Class C, while Chong and McKenzie won $100 and $50 for finishing second and third, respectively.

The winners of the Class A, B, and C of the Classified Tournament will be feted next month following the conclusion of the 2008 Bowler of the Year Tournament set for July 20 also at the San Jose bowling venue.

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Seventeen-year-old Isoa Me of Fiji, for his part, has a time of 22.00 this year and is a young man on the way up.

Waname Egora of Papua New Guinea, Jay Stone of Australia, and Chris Walasi of Solomon Islands are also shoe-ins for the finals.

In the 400m, the runners to watch are Tuccandidgee, Mowen Boino of Papua New Guinea, and Joshua Ahwong of Australia.

Add to the list Vanuatu's Arnold Sorina who has been doing well as of late based on his rapid improvement in the 800m during the year. Fiji's Me and Aporosa Tabulawaki should also be well in the mix.

In the under-18 division, New Caledonia's Christopher Igorra has a recent time of 11.10 in the 100m and are among the favorites in the 100m.

New Zealand's Rory Hofmans and Austalia's Daniel McLean should also contend with times of 11.24 and 11.35, respectively.

In the 200m, Australia's Mason Holm is among the top bets with a time of 22.70, followed by Joel Armstrong of New Zealand, with a time of 23.24 and countrymen Rory Hofmans and Alex Jordan, both with seed times of 23.30.

The 400m, meanwhile, is expected to be dominated by Aussies and Kiwis as Armstrong and Dean Searles of Australia are the early favorites. Matthew Pangelinan of Guam, meanwhile, can snatch for himself a bronze with his seed time of 53.11.

The 2008 Oceania Championships is set here on Saipan from June 25 to 28 at the Oleai Track and Field.

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game per week.

Games will start at 5:15pm on game days and will consist of two 35-minute halves with five-minute halftimes.

For more information about the 2008 NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League, contact co-ed league commissioner Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462.

59 take part in Red Cross lessons

A total of 59 took part in Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swimming lessons which kicked off last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan south pool.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Another dramatic finish for Woods forces a playoff

Tiger Woods wasn't sure if his left knee would allow him to finish 72 holes of the U.S. Open. After yet another defining moment at Torrey Pines, he was thrilled to get a chance at 18 more.

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Junior netters off to fine start

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 15-man CNMI junior tennis team to the 2008 North Pacific Qualifier is off to a fine start after winning a total of 17 games yesterday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Tamuning, Guam.

While the boys and girls 18s and 13s players lost eight games, five of those defeats were exacted by their teammates on head-to-head match-ups.

In the boys' 18, Russell Buenaventura and Tinian's Benjie Decena have two wins apiece in Pool B, while James Camacho and Woo Suk Chang won their debuts in Pool A.

Buenaventura beat compatriot Nathan Nutting, 6-0, 6-0, and upended Guam's Alex Park, 6-0, 6-2.

Decena, for his part, matched Buenaventura with wins over Park (6-0, 6-0) and Federated States of Micronesia's Alex Kalau (6-2, 6-2). Nutting absorbed a second loss when he

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Decena

Minor

Three win in 2008 Classified tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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Kitz Barja, Allan Hernandez, and Ed Echavez won their respective divisions in the 2008 Philippine Bowling Association Classified Tournament, which concluded last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Barja, who overtook erstwhile leader Paul Pangelinan in the six-game roll-off in Class A, won the Classified's marquee category after beating Simon Manacop in the finals, 202-183.

Barja and Pangelinan actually finished first and second in the roll-off following scores of 1,146 and 1,138, respectively.

That left Manacop (1,121) to duel with "perfect

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Kitz Barja, Allan Hernandez, and Ed Echavez pose with their bowling Balls after winning their respective divisions in the 2008 Philippine Bowling Association Classified Tournament held the past two weekends at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Too close to call in men's sprints

By MARK RABAGO
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The men's 100m and 200m events of the 2008 Oceania Championships are both too close to call, according to the Oceania Athletics Association website.

With 32 entries in the 100m, the century dash is expected to be a highly competitive race.

However, Duane Daley of Australia (10.88) and Pacific Games silver medal winner Iowane Dovumatua of Fiji (10.84) are among the early favorites to top the event.

Aside from Daley and Dovumatua, the 100m will also see the return of Howard twins—John and Jack—of the Federated States of Micronesia, Jack Iroga and Francis Manioru of Solomon Islands, and Eroni Tuivanuavou of Fiji.

Tahiti's Urarii Terootae could also pull off a surprise with a recent time of 11.00 to his name.

The 200m event, meanwhile, has 36 competitors, with three having seed times bellow 22.00 seconds—Aussies Joshua Ahwong (21.92) and Peter Tuccandidgee (21.61) and Fiji's Setareki Tikosaya (21.89).

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OCEANIA ATHLETICS
Australia's Tuccandidgee leads the way at the 2006 Grand Prix Series in Fiji.

110 sign up for Co-ed Soccer Summer League

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League's regular season kicks off today with a bumper crop of recruits for the 2008 edition.

According to league commissioner Angelo Villagomez, a total of 110 players have signed up for this year's competition at the CPA Airport Field. Of the number, 48 are women and are 62 men.

"These are more players than those who played last year," he said.

The 110 players are spread out into six teams—Blue, Orange, White, Yellow, Green, and Red.

Of the teams, only Team Orange and Team Red have officials name already as the latter is named Devil's Advocates and the former is Captain Morgan's.

Villagomez said the regular season starts tomorrow with Devil's Advocates taking on Jason Shroeder's Yellow Team.

On Wednesday, Dean Tenorio's Blue Team will take on Captain Morgan's, while Thursday's action will see Steve McKagan's White Team square off against Greg Borja's Green Team.

The NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League held its preseason last week with Devil's Advocate getting the better of Blue Team, 3-1; Yellow Team nosing out White Team, 4-3; and Captain Morgan's winning 6-2 over Green Team.

Villagomez said the league lasts for eight weeks, with games played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Each team will play one

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